

Rally demands Mandela release

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — About 30,000 people marched through Glasgow Sunday, calling for the release of jailed South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela. Organisers said the rally was the largest anti-apartheid demonstration ever held in Scotland. The Reverend Allan Boesak, Cape Town-based coloured (mixed race) leader of the World Alliance of Reform Churches, told the rally British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was indifferent to the suffering of South African blacks. "I am convinced... that if the situation were the other way around and little white children had been dying in South Africa (instead of) little black children, Thatcher would have gone there — she would have seen everything," he told the gathering. The rally followed a 10-hour rock concert attended by 70,000 people in London Saturday in celebration of Mandela's 70th birthday. Mandela was jailed on treason charges 24 years ago while leading the African National Congress movement which is fighting for majority rule in white-ruled South Africa.

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OPEC to extend current pact

VIENNA (R) — The OPEC oil group, deeply divided about new output curbs, is set to extend its current oil production ceiling until the end of the year, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Said Al Otaiba said Sunday. The minister, speaking in a television interview just before leaving for consultations with his president on the second day of a biannual meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), also said his OPEC quota was meaningless. "The prevailing feeling is that this agreement due to expire will be extended until the organisation convenes in December," he said in an interview with Abu Dhabi television taped in Vienna and broadcast in the emirate. Under the current production pact, which expires this month, 12 of the 13 OPEC members agreed in limit total production to 15.06 million barrels daily. Iraq refused to sign, demanding the same fixed quota as Iran. The Vienna talks have been dogged by political divisions and the atmosphere has been soured by friction between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the hostilities in the Gulf and future oil policy. Riyadh stunned the last meeting in April by severing diplomatic ties with Tehran.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Saudi crown prince visits Britain

LONDON (R) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah begins an official visit to Britain Monday which British government sources say is intended to cement Saudi Arabia's relations with Britain. Crown Prince Abdullah will hold talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe during his four-day stay. He will also lunch with Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle and meet the prince and princess of Wales twice. The visit by the 64-year-old Crown Prince, who is also Saudi Arabia's first deputy prime minister, follows one by King Fahd in March 1987. Political observers in Riyadh and government sources in London said Crown Prince Abdullah had lately assumed a greater role in foreign relations.

Iraq assails U.S.-Kurdish talks

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq strongly criticised the U.S. State Department Sunday for meeting with Iranian-backed Kurdish guerrilla leader Jalal Talabani. The Iraq News Agency (INA) said in a commentary that the meeting in Washington was "part of the strategy fomented by Zionism to hurt Iraq." Talabani commands the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, whose guerrilla forces, aided and armed by the Iranians, are with other Kurdish groups waging a campaign against the Iraqi government in Kurdistan province of northeast Iraq. The Iraq commentary said Talabani's recent meeting with State Department officials and U.S. congressmen was "intended to influence the Iraqi position after the battlefield victories scored by the Iraqi army against the Iranians." But it stopped short of accusing the United States of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

Genscher welcomes Soviet statement

BONN (AP) — Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher welcomes new Soviet moves towards forging a conventional arms treaty with the West, but only as a starting point for future negotiations, his spokesman said Sunday. "This will have to be looked at very closely, but it is does show a new thinking in the Soviet Union," Juergen Chrobog told the AP. He was alluding to remarks last week by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze indicating the Warsaw Pact was ready to make asymmetrical cuts in its conventional forces. At a conference on East-West security Saturday in Potsdam, East Germany, Genscher said he greeted the apparent change in the Kremlin position. "This speech in New York is welcomed because now it has been clearly stated that everywhere there is an advantage, asymmetrical cuts will have to be made," Genscher told the three-day conference, which ended Saturday.

Moscow 'considers inviting Peres'

TEL AVIV (R) — The Soviet Union is considering inviting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to Moscow in line with warming relations between the two countries, the daily newspaper Davar said Sunday. Davar, belonging to Peres's Labour Party, quoted a senior Israeli foreign ministry official as saying information from Eastern European diplomats indicated Peres's visit could take place within three months. The visit to Moscow would be the first by an Israeli foreign minister. An Israeli consular delegation is due in Moscow in July, the first Israeli representation there since the Kremlin severed relations during the 1967 war. The foreign ministry would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Argentine plane crashes; 21 killed

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — An Austral DC-9 airliner carrying at least 21 passengers and crew crashed in a pine-tree plantation while trying to land at the fog-bound northeastern city of Posadas, authorities said. There were no immediate reports of survivors. The government news agency Telam said at least 15 passengers and a crew of six were aboard the private carrier, which left Buenos Aires' metropolitan airport at 7 a.m. (1000 GMT) and made an intermediate stop in the northern river port of Resistencia. Local news and radio reports said the plane crashed about five kilometres short of the Posadas airport while trying to land in heavy fog. Posadas, capital of Misiones province, is about 1,100 kilometres northeast of Buenos Aires and across the Parana River from the Paraguayan city of Encarnacion.

Prolific western novelist dead at 80

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prolific writer Louis L'Amour, whose popular novels recreated the old west of gunfighters and lawmen, cattle rustlers and horse thieves, has died of lung cancer, relatives said. He was 80. L'Amour died Friday night in his Los Angeles home. He was wife, Kathy, President Ronald Reagan praised L'Amour in 1983 for "having brought the west to the people of the east and to people everywhere." The author penned scores of western novels including "Hondo," "How the West Was Won," "The Iron Marshal," "The Quick and the Dead," "Sackett's Land," "Down the Long Hills," and "Ride the Dark Trail." Several, including "How the West Was Won," were made into motion pictures.

Kabul buys rebels' rockets

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed Afghan government said Sunday it was buying anti-aircraft missiles from rebel guerrillas. The purchase was the first of its kind reported by Kabul. Afghan authorities have offered to buy arms from the guerrillas as part of their moves to end a nine-year civil war. The official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, said two rockets were purchased from "anti-government forces," but did not identify the weapons. "The price of these rockets was paid to the concerned commander," the radio said. It did not name the commander nor say where and when it happened. Weapons used by the guerrillas include U.S.-supplied shoulder-fired Stinger missiles which have been most effective against Soviet airpower in Afghanistan. A Pakistan-based Afghan party, Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis), says that Iranian forces seized 24 Stinger missiles from its guerrillas in March last year. The party said the incident happened when a guerrilla convoy was taking 32 Stingers into the western Afghan province of Farah by way of Iran.

Thousands pay respects to Stevens

FREETOWN (AP) — Thousands of people formed a queue more than 1.5 kilometres long Sunday to pay their last respects to former President Siaka Stevens. Stevens died May 29 at the age of 82. The bluff and barrel-chested former police constable ruled the West African nation for more than 17 years before handing over power to his hand-picked successor, Joseph Momoh Nov. 28, 1985. Although the exchange of power was accomplished smoothly, a rarity in Africa, Stevens fell out with Momoh and had lost much popularity because of the decline of the country's economy. Many held Stevens responsible for corruption that had deprived the country of earnings from its rich natural resources. But Sunday tens of thousands marched past his open coffin after his body was brought to state hall in a military carriage, the bronze casket draped in Sierra Leone's green, white and blue. Anglican Bishop Thomas Bangurah, in his eulogy, said of Stevens: "This day a great leader has fallen in Sierra Leone. Like any one else, he made his mistakes, but God will forgive his sins and omissions... by his contributions, he has left his footprints on the sands of time."



REGENT VISITS ARMY UNIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, shakes hands with personnel of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division during a visit he paid to the unit Saturday. The Regent also watched and took part in exercises performed by the unit (Petra photo)

French Socialists seen short of clear majority

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand's Socialists failed to gain an outright majority in Sunday's general election, computer forecasts said — forcing him to seek new allies in a hung parliament.

As the polls closed, projections put the Socialists neck and neck with the centre-right alliance. Neither group was likely to reach the 289 seats needed to form a stable majority in the 577-seat National Assembly, the forecasts showed.

Both groups were given between 265-285 seats, with the balance in the hands of the Communists who were estimated to get 27-28 seats.

"It's stupefying — for the first time in the 30-year history of the Fifth Republic, there will be no clear majority in the National Assembly," said Jerome Jaffre,

analyst for the Sofres polling organisation.

The right hailed the result as a defeat for Mitterrand, only weeks after his triumphant re-election as president for a new seven-year term May 8.

Mitterrand, 71, called the election to overturn a centre-right majority in parliament and put his Socialist Party in a position to govern for the next five years.

The centre-right appeared to have no possibility of ruling as its only possible partner, the extreme-right National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen, was heading for virtual extinction in parliamentary terms.

Le Pen himself acknowledged defeat in his bid to gain a seat in the southern port of Marseille, where his anti-immigrant policies have received widespread support.

Sporadic battles continue in Beirut camps

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival Palestinian factions sniped at each other in Beirut's refugee camps Sunday as Israeli warplanes crashed the sound barrier overhead.

The Israeli jets also crashed the sound barrier over eastern and southern Lebanon, but did not carry out any bombing attacks, police reported.

In South Lebanon, gunmen believed to be Muslim fanatics raided a nightspot overnight that had reopened for the first time after a two-year fundamentalist ban on nightlife and alcohol.

A police spokesman said 25 gunmen burst into the open air restaurant on the outskirts of the ancient city of Tyre at 1.30 a.m. Sunday (22.30 GMT Saturday). They fired at random into a crowd of about 500 people who were drinking and dancing to a live orchestra.

"Four people were wounded, two of them seriously. The gunmen smashed the orchestra's instruments as well as liquor bottles," added the spokesman. "The people were very happy, enjoying their newly restored freedom, when this incident took place," the spokesman added.

He said police believe the gunmen must be Shi'ite fanatic followers of Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Fundamentalists of Hizbollah (Party of God) had controlled South Lebanon until last April, banning dancing and drinking.

Police said the fighting in the Beirut refugee camps, going on since last Wednesday, ebbed into sporadic sniping on the fifth day. Nineteen people were killed and 95 wounded in the four previous days of clashes between supporters of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and dissidents.

Jackson hits Dukakis over Jerusalem remark

WASHINGTON (R) — Jesse Jackson, siding with the Reagan administration, Sunday criticised his Democratic presidential rival Michael Dukakis for saying the United States should move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

"Secretary (of State George) Shultz is correct and every American president has taken that position, that moving the embassy to Jerusalem would not make Israel more secure," Jackson said in a television interview.

"It would not be security for Israel, nor justice for Palestinians, nor peace for both," he said.

Dukakis, who clinched the Democratic presidential nomination in final primary elections last Tuesday, said the United States should move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem as its capital.

"If a nation decides a particular community within its borders is its capital, traditionally we have accepted it and I would do the same," he said last week.

"I said that if that's where (Israel) wants its capital, then as far as I'm concerned that's its capital."

Tehran issues formal denial of reports Khomeini is ailing

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's interior minister has denied a U.S. report that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was dying of cancer and said the 87-year-old revolutionary patriarch was "in perfect shape," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Ali Akbar Mohtashemi as saying that he met Khomeini several days and that he was "now in perfect shape."

Western analysts believe that a power struggle within Tehran's fractious hierarchy will intensify if Khomeini dies as the various factions seek to seize control of the Islamic revolution.

Mohtashemi said in an interview in Sunday's edition of the English-language Tehran Times daily that the foreign media have been claiming for years that Khomeini's health was failing. He charged that the latest re-

Forest fires seen as new weapon in uprising

Israeli driver kills Palestinian in Jericho

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli bus driver shot and killed a Palestinian youth who stoned his vehicle in the occupied West Bank Sunday while firemen fought to extinguish widespread forest fires blamed on Palestinian activists using a new weapon in the six-month-old Palestinian uprising.

In the West Bank, Palestinian high school students clashed with the army for the third day in the town of Hebron, and eight were treated for the effects of tear-gas. Also Sunday, an Israeli motorist was seriously injured when a Palestinian threw a rock at his car near Tel Aviv.

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said, meanwhile, that Mubarak Awad, a Palestinian-American advocate of non-violent resistance to Israeli occupation, would likely be expelled early Monday after losing a supreme court appeal a week ago.

In the fatal clash near Jericho, a public bus driver fired a gun after his vehicle was stoned as it passed the 'Ain Al Sultan refugee camp, home to about 700 Palestinians on the main road linking Jerusalem with Galilee.

No injuries were reported from the stones.

Palestinians identified the dead Palestinian as Sa'd Mohammad Al Hayek, 18.

A Jericho hospital official said Hayek was brought dead to the hospital minutes after the clash,

shot in his heart and back.

The death raised to 214 the number of Palestinians killed in the six months of uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

In Hebron, students clashed with troops at the Al Hussein High School, the city's largest, and at the Tareq Ibn Ziyad High

School, according to reports. Eight students were treated for tear-gas effects, said officials at the city's Alia hospital.

The army confirmed a third day of protests at Al Hussein and said it was considering closing the school. High schools in the West Bank were reopened June 6 after a four-month closure.

Also Sunday, Israeli Police Minister Chaim Bar-Lev said Palestinians were behind widespread fires that have destroyed 35,000 to 40,000 acres of forests and pastures since early May.

He said several Palestinians have been detained, including two 18 and 19 years old from the village of Umm Al Fahm who confessed to setting some of the blazes. Bar-Lev urged Israeli courts to impose heavy sentences

on the arsonists "to act as a deterrent."

"No doubt that it is part of the intifada and linked to what is happening in the (occupied) territories and to Israeli Arabs," he told Israel Radio.

The daily Yediot Ahronot newspaper said in a front-page report that the intifada was turning into an "intifade." It recalled last week's leaflet issued by the uprising's leaders who urged the Palestinians to "destroy and burn all the enemies' agricultural and industrial resources."

On Sunday, firemen battled fires near upper Nazareth, at Jerusalem's suburb of Ramot, in the Bar Giora forest outside Jerusalem, and around an Israeli weather station near Tel Aviv.

Rifai reaffirms Jordan's stand on peace conference, PLO role

LONDON (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has said that if an international peace conference is held on the Middle East Jordan will attend the forum as an independent, sovereign Arab state, which is a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict, along with other Arab sides to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

In an interview published Sunday by the London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper, the prime minister said Jordan's position was based on the pan-Arab stand towards political initiatives to settle the Palestinian problem and pointed out that His Majesty King Hussein had made this position very clear in his address to last week's extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers.

Rifai also noted that the King reaffirmed Jordan's stand that it would not be a substitute for the PLO or the Palestinian people in peace negotiations and said the position was based on Jordan's as well as the Arabs' stand on the Palestinian question.



Zaid Rifai

"When we are discussing the Middle East question, we are discussing the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict," Sharq Al Awsat quoted Rifai as saying. "Therefore, Jordan, as an Arab state and one of the parties directly involved in the conflict — and not as the only party to the conflict — will take part in an international peace conference along the same principles," the prime minister was quoted as saying.

"Jordan insists that the PLO should take part in any peace

talks on an equal footing with all other parties because the PLO represents the Palestinian dimension and the Palestinian people," Rifai said.

Replying to a question, Rifai said the issue of the form of Palestinian participation was an issue which could be agreed upon after the United Nations secretary-general issues an invitation to the PLO to attend the proposed international conference.

The prime minister recalled that the King, in his speech at the Algiers summit, had reaffirmed that Jordan supports the PLO's participation in the conference either as an independent delegation or a joint Arab delegation or whatever form that could be agreed upon and that would contribute to convening the conference.

"Rifai reiterated that the conference should be not a ceremonial one that would prepare for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations. "It should have an effective role in working towards reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem," the prime minister was quoted as saying.

(Continued on page 5)

Algeria signals change in stand on W. Sahara conflict

ALGIERS (AP) — Algerian authorities, newly-reconciled with Morocco, for the first time assumed a carefully neutral posture Sunday in the 12-year-old conflict over the Western Sahara.

A communiqué from the ruling National Liberation Front's politburo recalled that the conflict remains unresolved despite the reconciliation. But, it refrained from its usual criticism of Morocco or its demands for the full independence of the disputed territory.

Meeting to consider the outcome of last week's Arab summit conference in Algiers, the nine-member politburo reiterated the long-standing Algerian commitment to a "just and definitive settlement" of the dispute. But, for the first time, it did not explicitly endorse the Polisario movement's bitter campaign against the Moroccan annexation of the mineral-rich territory.

Diplomats in the Algerian capital reported some progress in the past few days toward the integration of the Western Sahara into a future Moroccan federal state.

Morocco, claiming traditional tribal links going back at least 1,000 years, annexed the 266,000-square-kilometre former Spanish colony following Spain's withdrawal in 1975.

Algeria gave the Polisario unrestricted military, logistical and political backing and allowed the guerrillas to attack Morocco from territory.

Algerian sanctuaries where the Moroccans could not strike back without risking war.

The two states broke relations and remained in a state of armed confrontation for 12 years. Despite the massive Algerian aid, the guerrillas failed to gain any meaningful foothold in the disputed territory.

Their only success was on the political front, where they won diplomatic recognition from some 60 Third World nations.

On May 16, Algeria and Morocco abruptly announced the restoration of diplomatic and "fraternal" relations. King Hassan received a tumultuous public welcome when he came to Algiers for the first time in 15 years Tuesday to attend the Arab summit.

A Polisario diplomat was evicted when he gatecrashed a banquet given for Hassan by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Our new look...

With today's issue, the Jordan Times introduces some changes in layout and graphics. The front page has been slightly redesigned to accommodate more late-breaking news stories from around the world, while the headline typefaces for the entire newspaper have been standardised using only two typefaces, with their italic derivatives. We hope the new look will make the newspaper easier to read, and we would welcome any comments from readers on the content or layout of the newspaper. We intend to make some more changes in the near future, including a redesigned daily guide, a new business and economics daily guide, regular features on domestic and international travel, and an expanded, separate section on daily cultural, sports and other events in Jordan, which will run on the national news pages.

— the editor



General view of the holy city of Jerusalem with the Dome of the Rock (right) dominating the city's old quarter (File photo)

Mariam Shahin interviews Rouhi Al Khatib, the last elected Arab mayor of the occupied city of Jerusalem

Al Quds — holy city, unholy occupation

AL QUDS "the holy" is the Arabic name for Jerusalem. It brings to mind the name the Canaanites gave the city when it was their capital more than 4000 years ago. They called it Salem which means peace. For over four centuries the name Jerusalem has been synonymous with peace. What has happened to the holy city of peace?

The question of Jerusalem, its legal status, the endless discussions on its internationalisation, the respect or lack of it, being shown to its numerous holy places, the rights (including the right of return) of the Arab residents of the city and of course the effects that the six month old "intifada" has had on the city and its residents, were discussed with Rouhi Al Khatib, the exiled Arab mayor of Jerusalem. A Coptic priest visiting Jordan from Jerusalem was also present at the time the Jordan Times interviewed Mr. Khatib. The priest highlighted the problems of his religious community in Jerusalem.

History has recorded that Jerusalem has been the capital of the holy land for 6,000 years. In the Old Testament, (Genesis 14:18-19), the Bible tells that the city was thirty centuries old when it was captured by the Israelites under David in the 10th century B.C. Jerusalem is, therefore, at least four thousand years old. It was the capital of the Canaanite kingdom, as well as the centre of monotheistic worship. In the days of Abraham, the earliest known reference to it is contained in Egyptian records, some of which indicate that it was a tributary to Egypt in 14th century B.C. Contrary to 20th century popular belief in the Western world, it is known and documented (Frank C. Sakran's Whose Jerusalem) that the ancient kingdom of Israel did not recognise Jerusalem as a holy city, and its people did not go there to worship.

Since the turn of the 20th cen-

tury Jerusalem has passed through several phases, according to Khatib:

The first phase saw world Jewry prepare to infiltrate into Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular. This became official Zionist policy at the Balfour conference in 1897 under Theodor Herzl.

With the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the British government subsequently ignored and reneged its previous undertakings and assurances to its Arab allies led by the late King Hussein Ibn Ali during World War I.

The second phase, (1918-1948): During this period of British mandate in Palestine, the British government did everything it could to create a homeland for the Jews in Palestine.

A programme of massive Jewish immigration and settlement in Palestine was implemented through force by the British government. The programme also received moral and material support from the so-called German reparations funds which were exorted by the Zionist movement from a guilt-ridden Germany. The powerful Zionist lobby in the United States, with its disproportionate influence on the formulation of foreign policy also played a major role in supporting the programme. The Jewish population in Palestine subsequently increased from 56,000 in 1918 to 650,000 in 1948.

As far as the city of Jerusalem was concerned, this rapid demographic transformation was even more phenomenal. The Jewish population of Jerusalem increased from 10,000 or 10 per cent of the city's population in 1918 to 100,000 or about 50 per cent by 1948.

Land ownership by the Jewish residents of Jerusalem increased from 4 per cent to 14 per cent during the British mandate. This increase was due largely to legislation enacted by the British mandatory government, which violated the terms of the mandate by which they ruled as well as the

universal declaration of human rights.

The third phase, which lasted from 1948-1967, began with the establishment of the Jewish state and that resulted in the expulsion of over one million Arab Palestinians from their homeland. Palestinian land, houses and many other possessions were appropriated by the state of Israel and were used to settle hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants.

In the course of the fighting that took place in 1948, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan retained the eastern part of Jerusalem including the ancient walled city together with the Christian and Muslim holy places. 60,000 refugees fled to what had now become the "other side", Jerusalem, like Berlin, had been divided. The Israeli occupied sector of the city comprised 80 per cent of the municipal area of Jerusalem. The Arabs of Jerusalem both Muslim and Christian were thus dispossessed of their homes and possessions, made refugees in their own country and never allowed to return.

The Jewish population of Jerusalem increased from 100,000 to 190,000 and Jewish possession of increased from 14 per cent to 73 per cent.

The fourth phase, which began in 1967, was marked by the occupation of the remainder of Arab Palestine, which included the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and east Jerusalem. It was during this final phase that a systematic Judaisation of Jerusalem took place. The methods used were a mixture of military, terrorist, legislative and administrative measures, carried out in total disregard to the Geneva conventions, the universal declaration of human rights and United Nations resolutions.

Rouhi Al Khatib recalls, "I personally witnessed the first nine months after the occupation of the eastern sector of Jerusalem before my expulsion from the city to Amman on March 7, 1968.

Subsequent information gathered from documented accounts conveyed to me by responsible Arab bodies and citizens of Jerusalem, as well as reports in papers and magazines enabled me to remain fully aware of the current situation in Jerusalem. Khatib listed the following as Israel's most outstanding violations against the occupied city and its Arab inhabitants:

— After the 1967 battle for Jerusalem, the Israeli occupation forces terrorised the civilian population of Jerusalem by continuous fire from air and ground, deliberately killing about 300 civilians and causing another 5,000 to flee. "This was after the fighting had stopped."

— Four days after hostilities ceased, the Israeli army brought in bulldozers and demolished all the buildings of the Magharbi quarter of the old city and rendered 135 Arab families homeless. Another 24 buildings and a plastic factory adjacent to the Armenian quarter were also demolished at the same time, depriving another 300 inhabitants and the workers of the factory of their homes and their livelihood.

— Israel announced the annexation of the Arab sector of the city, "unifying" it, with the western sector and declaring it the "eternal capital of Israel, in flagrant violation of the Geneva convention and the universal declaration of human rights."

— The dissolution of the elected Arab municipal council of Jerusalem and the subsequent expulsion of the Arab mayor of the city to Amman on March 7, 1968. — The demolition of 640 buildings, including a girls school and two mosques inside and outside the walls of the city, and of course the expulsion of the inhabitants of these buildings, which numbered 6,000.

— As a result of illegal archaeological excavations, 14 historic buildings either collapsed or were severely damaged and had to subsequently be bulldozed and demolished by the occupying

Israeli forces.

— The burning of the Al Aqsa Mosque on August 21, 1969.

— Repeated and continued attacks against Christian churches in Jerusalem, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Coptic convent. The sustained pressure by the Israeli authorities on the Christian clergy to sell or to agree to long-term leases of lands owned by Christian churches of various denominations.

— Subjecting Arab businessmen, craftsmen and companies in the city to the provisions of Israeli tax and commercial laws and Israeli municipal laws and regulations contrary to the resolutions of the Security Council and the Geneva conventions.

— Preventing around 20,000 Arab citizens of the city, who were absent during the fighting in June 1967, from returning to their homes and confiscating their properties.

— Changing the Arabic or historical names of many of the main streets and public squares of the Arab sector of the city to Israeli names in their attempt to change the character of the city.

— Dismantling of the water pumps installed by the Arab municipality of Jerusalem, removing these pumps to the Israeli sector of the city and connecting the water network of the occupied Arab sector to the Israeli water supply network, thus making Jerusalem Arabs dependent on Israeli water.

— Promoting Jewish immigration and settlement in Jerusalem. Preventing the return of the Arab citizens, as well as the settlement of any other Arabs in the greater Jerusalem area. As a result of this discriminatory policy, the number of Jewish residents in Jerusalem had been artificially increased to over 300,000 as compared with about 100,000 Arab inhabitants, a ratio 75 per cent Jews to 25 per cent Arabs, and a complete reversal of the proportion which prevailed at the begin-

ning of the British mandate in Palestine in 1918 when the Arab population was 75 per cent and the Jewish population was 25 per cent.

— Permitting Israeli owners of property in the Arab sector of the city to claim back their properties after the while denying the same right to the Arab owners in the Israeli sector. Arab properties in west Jerusalem are still confiscated and their Arab owners are still considered absentees.

— The number of Christian residents in Jerusalem has declined from about 30,000 before the Arab-Israeli war in 1948, to about 18,000 before the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 and now stands at about 12,000.

Rouhi Al Khatib recalls that it was "unfortunate for the Arabs of Palestine, the United Nations, under the influence of the American administration was manipulated on Nov. 29, 1947, to pass a resolution which that partitioned Palestine."

That resolution called for the partition of Palestine into three parts:

1) A part for a Jewish state with an area of 56.35 per cent of the total area of Palestine (land ownership by Jews at that time did not exceed 5.66 per cent).

2) A part for an Arab state with an area of 43 per cent of the total area of Palestine.

3) An international sector comprising Jerusalem with its Arab and Jewish population and three small cities, TEN Arab villages and two Jewish settlements. The area of the sector was put at 0.56 per cent of the total area of Palestine and its population at 250,000 of whom 59 per cent were Arabs, 40 per cent Jews and 1 per cent foreigners.

The truce agreement signed in 1949 did not only confirm the division of Palestine, but also of Jerusalem for the first time in 6,000 years.

Khatib recalls that "the Arab population of Palestine refused to

accept the partition. Ever since the U.N. General Assembly resolution of Nov. 29, 1947, the Arabs of Palestine have refused the partition of their country and the internationalisation of Jerusalem. There are several reasons for this. The resolution violated the former League of Nations mandate over Palestine. Therefore the United Nations was not entitled by any power or authority to divide Palestine. This makes the U.N. resolution void. It is an unlawful resolution and remains so."

Khatib adds that "the mere idea of accepting resolutions of partition and internationalisation is rejected by the Arabs of Palestine because it means giving up part of their homeland. The fact that the holy places exist in Jerusalem does not justify by any means, the internationalisation of that city or the deprivation of its people of their national sovereignty."

But how to safeguard Arab property in Jerusalem?

"Concerning property ownership of people in Jerusalem, awqaf may be able to assist. In 1948 many properties that belonged to awqaf in west Jerusalem were frozen, and the Israeli authorities put these properties under the authority of a 'custodian'. Because of their religious status the Israeli government has found it more difficult, in the past, to appropriate properties of the awqaf."

"In order to turn over land/property to the awqaf there are many steps that must be taken: 1) land registration with the Israeli authorities; 2) payment of a transfer tax; 3) proof that the property belongs to the owner; 4) absent owners must appoint legal attorneys; 5) property taxation must be paid to the Israeli government."

"It should be made clear that even turning over one property to the awqaf does not guarantee that the Israelis will not take it, it is merely an attempt to safeguard

what is still in Arab hands."

Building restrictions imposed by Israel on the Arab community were portrayed well by the case of the Coptic church.

According to the visiting Coptic priest, who declined to be further identified: "The Coptic church has been trying intensively to get a building permit in order to build a Coptic school for the last 12 years. The church owns 12 dunums of land not far from the church. We had received permission from the Jordanian authorities to build a school on this land before the war of 1967. After the war we waited for several years expecting that Arab rule will return. When we realised that this may take some time we decided to proceed with our building plans."

"Since we began trying to get the permit in 1976, every year the Israeli authorities come up with new objections or prerequisites. One year they told us we can't build higher than 4.5 metre, which meant a one story building. Then we were told that if a property is larger than two dunums the Israeli government takes the rest. We are still negotiating. We have not given up in our quest to receive permission but we cannot afford to compromise because we may have to live with what we get for a long time to come."

"We used to be busy with all these issues. Now everything has been overshadowed by the uprising," says Khatib. "But people are suffering from unemployment, and the closure of schools and universities. Continuous curfews have disrupted normal life. The aggressive Israeli attitudes against merchants has been particularly harsh. It is merchanile middle class that has been among the hardest hit. The lack of proper transportation from one place to another has been a major problem as well as shortages of food commodities. The ban on money transfers that exceed JD 400 can be overcome by sending money with foreigners or by sending them to individual accounts, each transfer being in the amount of JD 400. There are four branches of the Cairo-Amman Bank in the West Bank."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES	
PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Kotan 15:50 Programme review 16:00 Cartoons 16:25 Children's programmes 16:55 Al Mawhab (children's educational programmes) 17:25 Children's programme 17:55 Educational programme 18:25 Local news 19:20 Local programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:35 Arabic series 21:10 Programme review 22:05 Local programme 23:00 News summary in Arabic		EXHIBITIONS ★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle. ★ A permanent exhibition of plastic art by 27 Arab artists at the Plaza Hotel. ★ An art exhibition by Tawfiq Yahya at the French Cultural Centre. ★ An exhibition of Arabian Calligraphy by Dr. Sami Nasib Mikarem at Alia Art Gallery. ★ Sketches by Abdul Hamed Jundi, The Royal Cultural Centre at 10:30 a.m. ★ An art exhibition by Horst Jansen at the University of Science and Technology, Irbid.		PRAYER TIMES 14:30 Bahrain (GF) 15:35 Kuwait (KU) 16:30 Paris (AF) 06:45 Fajr 07:25 (Sunrise) Dhuhr 12:36 Dhuhur 16:18 Asr 19:49 Maghrib 21:26 Isha		NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Ibrahim Abu Qoura 74996 Dr. Dawoud Al Obaidi 78027 Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam 84184 Dr. Bahjar Badr 84932 Firas pharmacy 66192 Al Asema pharmacy 67055 Feras pharmacy 78336 Nairookh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 67670 Yaacoub pharmacy 64945 Shmeisani pharmacy 67660 TAXIS: Ahram taxi 66391 Zaid taxi 66476 Khayyan taxi 64151 Cairo taxi 81957 Jordan taxi 82308 Kardi taxi 841304 IRBID: Dr. Marwan Habbah (—) Al Shamsa pharmacy 275825 ZARQA: Dr. Muleed Damra 985322 Khalifeh pharmacy 985417	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 91.5 Mhz. FM & partly on 96.0 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19		FILM ★ "Clementine Tango" 20 hrs. French Cultural Centre.		ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 10:00 Aqaba (RJ) 10:10 Damascus (RJ) 10:20 Larnaca (RJ) 10:30 Cairo (RJ) 10:40 Kuwait (RJ) 10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:45 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ) 10:45 Helsinki (RJ) 10:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:50 New York, Vienna (RJ) 10:55 Bucharest (RJ) 10:55 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 10:55 Vienna, Los Angeles (RJ) 12:10 Baghdad (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 10:30 Sana'a (LHI) 10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 10:30 Muscat, Bahrain (GF) 10:30 Kuwait (KU) 10:30 U.K. sterling pound 646/ 659.2 10:30 Kuwait (KU) 355.3/ 359.2 10:30 Beirut (ME) 307.5/ 309.6 10:30 Baghdad (AF)		HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64241/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64244/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mahbas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 661174 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845843 Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 66184/6 Italian, Al-Muhajirah 771013 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26 Queen Alia Hospital 66224/50 Amal Hospital 674155	
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1240 & SW 7200, 4565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline America 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News & Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 News 23:10 World Report		LECTURE "Early Village Life": Patterns of Neolithic Community and Household Organization" by Dr. Brian Byrd of Arizona University, 7 p.m., Dept. of Antiquities.		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:45 Aqaba (RJ) 11:45 Bucharest (RJ) 12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 12:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) 12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 13:40 Kuwait (RJ) 14:45 Bahrain, Dhoha (RJ) 15:00 Larnaca (RJ) 15:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 15:10 Cairo (RJ) 15:15 Jeddah (RJ) 15:15 Doha, Muscat (RJ) 15:50 Baghdad (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:30 Cairo, London (BA) 09:15 Beirut (MEA) 11:10 Frankfurt (LH) 14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 14:05 Cairo (MS)		WEATHER A gradual decrease in temperature is expected, with north-westerly winds, becoming strong at times. In Aqaba, it would be dusty, with southerly moderate winds and calm seas. Amman Min./max. temp. 28 / 31 Aqaba 27 / 37 Dumana 22 / 36 Jordan Valley 23 / 36 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.	
CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 66102/7 American Centre 64371 American Centre Library 641520 British Council 636147/8 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Centre 665108 Hussein Youth City 667181/6 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ of Jordan Library 843555		CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibedeh, Tel. 637480. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lweibedeh, Tel. 625363. chaplain's residence tel. 601359 Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 773261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295. Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605, Rev. Veli. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817, 821264.		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg Apples (French) 400 / 360 Apricots 750 / 650 Bananas 320 / 280 Bananas (Mukammal) 770 / 720 Beans 220 / 230 Cabbage 110 / 80 Carrots 120 / 80 Cauliflower 150 / 120 Cherry 1000 / 800 Cherry 100 / 70 Cucumbers 150 / 120 Eggplants (large) 220 / 170 Eggplants (small) 220 / 170 Garlic 220 / 180 Grapes 650 / 600 Lemon (yellow) 500 / 450 Lemon (green) 400 / 350 Mallow 100 / 70 Marrow 110 / 80 Onions (dry) 90 / 60 Onions (local) 320 / 280 Okra 350 / 300 Peas 250 / 200 Pepper (hot) 380 / 320 Pepper (sweet) 450 / 350 Potato 380 / 300 Strawberry 1100 / 1000 Tomatoes 90 / 60 Watermelon 150 / 120 Sweetmelon 150 / 120			

Symposium discusses crime prevention

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, a symposium on crime in the Jordanian society, its reasons and management, was held Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Addressing the symposium, which was organised by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, were the ministry's director of Preaching and Counselling Department Ahmad Hilayyel, Mohammad Barbour, teacher of sociology at the University of Jordan, Mohammad Al Farh, psychiatrist, Col. Nouredin Khair from the Public Security Department and Mohammad Al Raghmi, director of the Ministry of Awqaf's Documentation Department.

In their speeches, the speakers reviewed the criminal situation in Jordan, reasons of crimes, size of the problem and means of combating it.

They pointed out that the crime rate has dropped dramati-

cally last year.

They noted that the number of crimes committed in 1987 was 18,129 compared with 19,579, thus achieving a decrease of 7.4 per cent.

They also said that crime in Jordan has not reached the stage of organised crime, despite using more developed methods in carrying them out.

Participants in the symposium also highlighted the role of family, social institutions and the various official institutions in educating people on crimes and means of countering them.

Speakers stressed that adherence to the Islamic teachings and the practical and careful translation of such teachings is the best remedy for the crime.

Taking part in the symposium were Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, director of the Royal Cultural Centre and a large number of preachers.

Jordanian-Turkish committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordanian-Turkish Committee on Tourism will hold a meeting in Ankara on June 20 to discuss means of promoting bilateral cooperation in tourism. Jordan's delegation to the four-day meeting will be led by the country's ambassador to Turkey.

Another Jordanian-Turkish

meeting took place in Ankara early last January when officials and specialists in transit and transport operations met to discuss an agreement regulating and organising operations between Jordan and Turkey. The three-day meeting came in the wake of a protocol signed by the two countries on normalising economic and trade cooperation.

University of Jordan staff receive awards

AMMAN (Petra) — Five University of Jordan staff members won the Abdul Hamid Shoman competition awards for 1987, for their remarkable work in pharmacy, anaesthetics, mathematics, botany and physics.

An announcement here said that the awards went to Dr. Walid Turk, dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Omar Shahin, associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Adnan Awad,

associate professor of the Mathematics Department at the Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Tawfiq Mustafa, assistant professor at the Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. Naser Saleh from the Physics Department.

All the winners had had extensive research work in their fields of specialisation and wrote a number of books about their research and subsequent findings.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TIES WITH SINGAPORE: Jordan and Singapore has decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at the level of non-resident ambassadorial level, according to an official announcement Sunday. Another announcement by the cabinet said that the council of ministers has endorsed the Water Authority of Jordan's table of appointments of employees, as well as new jobs and projects for 1988. The cabinet also appointed Aved Eid Al Sharaa as Mayor of Buweida, a town in the Ramtha district.

NIMR MEETS DUTCH ENVOY: Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nahib Al Nimr Sunday discussed means of developing bilateral relation with the Dutch Ambassador to Jordan Gerben Meihuizen. They also exchanged views on a number of issues of interest to the region and the efforts made by the Dutch government to support our kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories.

OMANI DELEGATION: A delegation of students from Sultan Qaboos University in Oman visited the University of Jordan Sunday and met with its president Abdul Salam Al Majali. The delegation was briefed on the university's development and programmes. They later toured the campus where they met with students and teachers. On Saturday Jordan University of Science and Technology President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni received the delegation and explained the university's development and its future plans.

MA'AN SEWERAGE: The Governor of Ma'an Sunday discussed with the city mayor and other officials the steps that have been taken so far "in carrying out the sewerage network and looked into the means to overcome the obstacles facing the smooth implementation of the project."

WORKS OF STUDENTS: An exhibition, displaying the work of students at the local vocational training centre, opened here Sunday. Balqa Governor Mijbem Khreisa who attended the opening ceremony said that the centre was opened in 1984 to offer training in carpentry, auto mechanics, refrigeration, air conditioning and other trades. The exhibition will remain open to the public for five days.

CHILD CARE: A training course for housewives opened at the Shobak society for social development Sunday to give local women instructions on caring for children. The week-long course, organised in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, is attended by 20 local women.

EXPORTS TO IRAQ: Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabba'a Sunday discussed with a delegation from Amman Chamber of Industry issues pertaining to Jordanian exports to Iraq and decided to set up a committee, headed by the ministry's secretary general to draw up the final list of items to be exported in preparation for submitting them to the Iraqi side.

OLIVE OIL PRICES: Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabba'a Sunday fixed the price of 18 kilogramme local olive oil from the ministry's warehouses at JD 18. The three kilogramme plastic gallon will be sold at JD 3,900 from the ministry's warehouses and at JD 4,000 for consumers. The one-litre gallon will be sold to consumers at JD 1,360. The new prices take effect as of Sunday.

Gold swindler nabbed

ZARQA (J.T.) — A man was apprehended in Zarqa after trying to sell fake bracelets to a local citizen who reported the matter to the police.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the man, identified only as M.A.Sh, brought a gold bracelet to the victim offering it for sale at JD 10 less than the market price.

There was no doubt about the genuineness of the bracelet, which both men took to a local jeweller for examination, it proved to be worth JD 55.

The imposter the next day brought the man 25 fake bracelets, which looked very similar to the one they had ex-

amined at the jeweller's and was able to deceive his potential victim who paid him JD 1,119.

The fraud was discovered when the man took the bracelets to a jeweller for examination and evaluation. They all turned out to be made of brass, according to the report. The police then sent out a warrant for the swindler's arrest which finally took place after he made several attempts to escape the report added.

It said that the wanted man admitted to being a swindler and a subsequent search of his home led to the discovery of more pieces of fake jewellery and large sums of cash.



Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Sunday addresses the opening session of a seminar on road accidents

(below) specialist and PSD officials take part in the seminar (Petra photos)



Seminar discusses road accidents

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A two-day seminar on road accidents in Jordan opened Sunday at the Police Academy in Amman.

Specialists on traffic organisation and roads are among those taking part in the seminar which will discuss engineering matters related to the organisation of traffic, first aid offered to victims of road accidents, controlling traffic flow, spreading awareness among the public on means to avoid road accidents and other related topics.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali addressed the opening session.

He underlined the importance of the meeting which, he said,

was called to focus more light on problems on the roads and look into means of reducing accidents.

The PSD is keen on such deliberations and discussion and plans to adopt seminar's resolutions and recommendations for the sake of making the roads a safer place for the motorists and pedestrians, Majali said.

Majali referred to the heavy material and human losses which incurred in Jordan as a result of road accidents over the past two years, and said that the outcome of the present seminar will benefit all Jordanian citizens.

Last month the interior minister said at a meeting here that road accidents in Jordan last year increased by 2,077 over those in

the previous year, causing 32 more deaths and 1,427 injuries over 1986 figures, and considerable material damage.

A study conducted by a specialist working for the Health Ministry revealed that road accidents in Jordan should be considered an internal problem, since 92 per cent of the cars involved in accidents covered by the study, were Jordanian and driven by Jordanian motorists.

Another speaker at Sunday's meeting was Col. Mohammad Bassoul, the Police Academy director, who urged the participants to come up with solutions for road problems and help reduce the Kingdom's human and economic losses.



Minister of Planning Taber Kanaan and the EC delegate Marcello Palmieri Sunday sign an agreement to set up primary health care centres in the Karak governorate (Petra photo)

EC grant to help development in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The European Community (EC) Sunday signed an agreement with the Jordanian government offering a grant of JD 420,000 to help set up four primary health care centres and improve three existing ones in the Karak Governorate in southern Jordan.

The new centres will be set up at Smakieh, Taybeh, Mu'ab and Rakin, and those to be improved and modernised are located at Rabbeh, Safi and Mazraah, according to the agreement signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and the EC delegate Marcello Palmieri.

The grant is part of the EC's 19 million European Currency Units (ECU) included in an 1982 assistance protocol to Jordan to help the Kingdom carry out development projects.

In February 1988 the EC signed an agreement here covering Jordanian projects to be financed under a \$120 million protocol signed by the two sides in 1987.

The agreement provides for grants, subsidised loans and risk capital for projects in agriculture, water resources and industry, identified in Jordan's current five-year plan which began in 1986.

Also Sunday two agreements were signed by Jordan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under which the latter will provide financial assistance to help promote forest and pasture lands in Jordan in a bid to stem desertification.

UNDP will provide \$396,000 to carry out this programme which also entails training personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out these projects.

A second agreement provides for UNDP to offer \$500,000 to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to finance its short-term training courses, seminars and workshops.

The two agreements were signed by Kanaan and the UNDP representative in Amman Ali Adqa.

NHF workshop seeks to improve public health awareness

AMMAN (J.T.) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation NHF Sunday organised a workshop entitled "Creative Media Message Development for Health" in which 20 people, representing information and health institutions in Jordan, took part.

NHF Director General In'am Al Mufti said that the workshop was designed to create an information work team to help the foundation in its endeavour to develop programmes to bring about a change in society.

The programmes will be conducted through the NHF's Health Communication Project whose director, Sima Bahouth, said that a team of Jordanian specialists are needed to work in both health and information fields and conduct social research work taking into consideration local customs, traditions and the environment.

She said that the participants in

the workshop represented Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, UNICEF (United Nations Children Fund), UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), Yarmouk University, the Health Ministry, NHF and the private information sector.

"The health communication project aims to raise and improve the mother and children health level in Jordan through orienting the public on the benefits of good health habits, such as breast feeding and pregnancy spacing," Bahouth said.

"The project, is bound to contribute to the attainment of

general health objectives in Jordan by way of enhancing participants' knowledge and creative skills on designing and producing media programmes, to generate a greater public awareness of health problems facing mother and child in Jordan," she added.

The workshop was chaired by Dr. Farah Al Kamel, director of the Centre for Development Information in Egypt and a specialist at the Academy for Education Development in the United States.

The participants discussed a number of working papers which deals with producing information messages directed to the public.

The project is being financed by NHF and the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the U.S. Academy for Educational Development and the Ministry of Health.

Pilgrims to be vaccinated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Muslims travelling from Jordan to Saudi Arabia for this year's pilgrimage season will have to be inoculated against meningitis, according to a Health Ministry official.

He said that the inoculation will be conducted by the Ministry of Health free of charge for all the estimated 12,000 pilgrims from East and West Banks and areas occupied by Israel since 1948.

The measure which is for the benefit of the pilgrims who will be mingling with thousands of Muslims from different nations, will be carried out at the request of the Saudi health authorities, the official noted.

He urged all would-be pilgrims to acquire immunisation against the infectious disease at least two weeks before their departure for the holy places.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which organises

the transportation of and cares for the pilgrims on their way to and during their stay in the holy places, said that it was preparing lists of names of would-be pilgrims to the holy places.

A ministry official said registration of would-be pilgrims has been extended until June 15 for the pilgrimage which will take place next month.

The official said that a total of 228 buses will travel by land in 180 convoys to transport the pilgrims to and from the holy places.

According to the official, convoys will start leaving for the holy places in Mecca and Medina by July 4.

Meanwhile the Ma'an governor Sunday presided over a meeting for the Pilgrimage Affairs Committee, and discussed the arrangements to provide the necessary facilities for the pilgrims in Ma'an's Pilgrims' City and at the Mudawwara border

point.

During the meeting, it has been decided to establish a number of security centres between Ma'an, Hussainieh and Jafr intersection to organise traffic and offer the necessary facilities to pilgrims.

Another decision was made to provide telephone services to pilgrims and to provide a number of doctors and nurses to work around the clock at the Pilgrims' City.

The committee also decided to form several task force teams, grouping personnel from the Civil Defence Department, Water and Electricity Departments to maintain water networks, sterilise drinking water, and to provide a number of ambulances and fire fighting cars.

However, Ma'an Health Department called on all pilgrims to take the anti-meningitis vaccine, at least two weeks before departure.

Iraqi aide arrives on 5-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Agriculture Karim Hassan Rida arrived here Sunday at the head of an official delegation on a five-day visit to Jordan.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Iraqi Minister said that his visit came within the framework of continued consultations and coordination between Jordan and Iraq to bolster cooperation in all fields.

During the visit, he said, he will discuss subjects related to the

agricultural sector which are endorsed by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee, and will visit a number of Jordanian agricultural projects to examine irrigation systems, drip irrigation methods and plastic culture in different projects.

Rida will hold meetings with his Jordanian counterpart Marwan Hmoud and other Jordanian officials.

Later Sunday, Hmoud held talks with his Iraqi counterpart on bilateral cooperation and pros-

pects of exchange of expertise and training of skilled people in the field of planting palm trees, combating agricultural insects, producing veterinary vaccines, breeding fish and developing agricultural production.

The talks also centred on topics relevant to marketing, commodity exchange and developing marketing services.

The two ministers also discussed possibilities to set up joint agricultural project at the joint borders of both countries.



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud receives upon the Iraqi minister's arrival in Amman Sunday Iraqi Minister of Agriculture Karim Hassan Rida (Petra photo)

Filipino community marks independence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Philippine community in Amman Sunday celebrated the 90th anniversary of their country's independence, the third independence celebration since President Corazon Aquino took over in a bloodless revolution in

February 1986.

The celebration opened at noon with a mass for the Filipino community at the Philippine Consulate. This was followed by a reception to be given by the Philippine Ambassador to Jordan Juan Saez at his residence for the

diplomatic corps, Jordanian officials, businessmen, the press, and other guests.

In the evening the Filipino Community Association under its president, Jean Jovero, held a Philippine evening at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

Madaba council reviews projects

MADABA (Petra) — The Madaba Development Council held a meeting Sunday to review development projects carried out in the past two years and obstacles impeding some schemes included in the 1986-1990 five-year National Development Plan.

The Madaba district governor,

who chaired the meeting, said that work on the implementation of the schemes was going on in a satisfactory manner especially in the fields of agriculture and tourism.

Among the main development schemes in tourism, he said, is the

Ma'in Spa Complex which cost JD 13 million, and created new jobs for Jordanian citizens.

"The past two years witnessed the opening of several agricultural roads which are now helping to market crops, and the construction of several schools,

Workshop on municipality management opens

IRBID (Petra) — Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment secretary general Sunday opened a five-day workshop on municipality management, which was attended by 35 chairmen of municipal councils in Irbid and Mafrqa governorates.

Participants in the workshop, which is organised by the ministry in cooperation with the Yarmouk

University's Continuous Learning and Community Development Department, will get first hand information about the modern administrative organisation and its impact on the municipality's work, in addition to preparation of short term and long term plans and budgets.

They will also learn methods to deal with problems, such as viola-

tions of organisational plans and how to perform the accurate accounting procedures when preparing their municipalities budgets.

The workshop aims to equip participants with modern administrative skills, the art of communication and interaction with the public.

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Responsible Editor and Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

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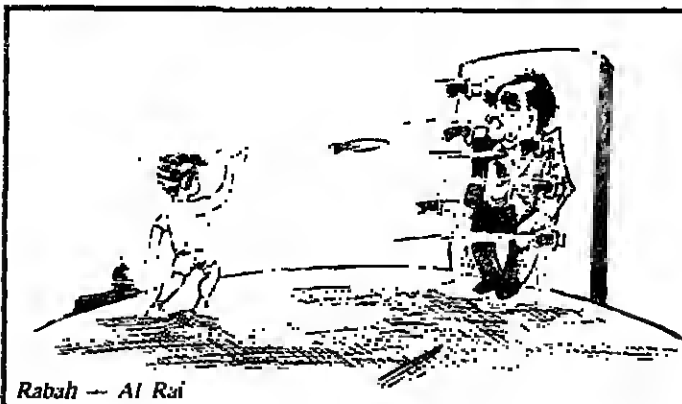
Shocking American tradition

MICHAEL Dukakis' proposal to move the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem reminds us that this is an election year in the United States, when frenzy replaces reason as the guiding force in the political arena. A traditional hallmark of American presidential elections is a rabid rush by the candidates to outbid one another in courting the pro-Israeli vote. Even Secretary of State George Shultz has called the Dukakis proposal "shocking", and he suggested that such a unilateral action would upset current peace-making efforts in the region. We would be more pleased if Mr. Shultz were to temper some of the other shocking things that are already being done by the American government as a matter of routine, such as rewarding Israel for its intransigence and its militaristic extremism by maintaining astoundingly high American aid levels, signing strategic cooperation accords with Israel, and providing it with economic support in the form of bilateral trade agreements. For Mr. Dukakis to suggest moving the American embassy to Jerusalem is simply one more shocking incident in a series of other shockers that are already part and parcel of American policy in the area.

We are confident that the Arab states and the PLO will effectively counter the Dukakis frenzy, as we did several years ago when Mr. Joe Clark was elected Canadian prime minister on a platform that also advocated moving the Canadian embassy to Jerusalem. That move finally came to naught, in the wake of a concerted Arab drive to make it clear that such a unilateral Canadian move would elicit practical opposition from the Arab World.

The Dukakis move, coupled with Senator Daniel Moynihan's pledge to reintroduce a resolution in the American Congress to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, will soon be forgotten. But these incidents remind us that in the power politics of the United States, it is always more appealing to politicians to pander to Zionist sentiment than to advocate balanced policies that take into consideration the aspirations and rights of both Israelis and Arabs. When this tradition is corrected, American officials will have a greater chance of being accepted in the region as impartial mediators.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



Rafah — Al Rai

Al Rai: Israelis unite against Arabs

AS part of Israel's anti-Arab campaign, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has claimed that the Algiers Arab summit resolutions were unreasonable and can by no means force Israel to accept them. This campaign is in line with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's policy, and provides evidence that all Israeli parties are in total agreement on resisting the process of peace although their means and their methods sometimes differ from one another. This fact should remove all illusions from the minds of Arabs that one Israeli party could be more ready for achieving peace with the Arabs. Nevertheless, statements by Shamir or Peres will never change any facts on the ground, neither will they change the Algiers summit resolutions or the Arab Nation's determination to seek peace based on justice. Israel can't remain in control of the situation for ever, and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories is the first step towards ending its occupation of Arab land. The Algiers summit resolutions transformed into practice Arab countries' support for the Palestinian uprising, providing it with the means for continuation and for maintaining the Arab struggle for freedom. For this reason, we now hear Israeli leaders launching campaigns against the Arabs and their resolutions. The summit gave the pan-Arab struggle a national dimension and further impetus and a greater force, something which will force Israel's leaders to reconsider their position and to realise that they can not keep control of Arab land and enjoy peace at the same time.

Al Dustour: Israeli reaction to Algiers

AS was expected from the Algiers Arab summit resolutions, they drew strong Israeli reaction and a campaign marked by rage and full of hatred towards the Arab nation. The Israeli leaders in general and Shimon Peres in particular said they saw nothing more than ink on paper and did not expect the resolutions to be implemented. This strong reaction reflects Israel's deep concern over added assistance to the Palestinians and their revolt, and its fear of continued protests against inhuman practices and oppression. Israel also fears the Arab Nation's determination towards seeking peace based on justice and collective Arab action to attain that objective. There is no doubt that the resolutions taken at Algiers will give further impetus to the uprising and more support for the Palestinians in their struggle to regain freedom and bring to an end Israel's occupation of their land. Israel should realise that the Algiers resolutions are no ink on paper and do not reflect a passing whim. The Arabs are now really unified and their solidarity is as strong as ever; and above all, they are determined to work in total harmony to thwart Israel's designs.

Sawt Al Shaab: An example for Arabs

THE coming Arab generations will find in King Hussein's address at the Algiers summit meeting a national document full of facts about Arab history and pointing to a sound process for achieving pan-Arab objectives. The King was candid about Jordan's relations with the Palestinian people and was keen on the Palestine question which is the prime concern for the Kingdom in view of the special relationship between the peoples on both sides of the River Jordan, and the inter-social demographic and economic integration between the two peoples. In fact, the unity between the two banks sets an example for Arab countries seeking unity. Jordan's concern over the Palestine cause and the future of the Palestinians is manifest in the Kingdom's attitude, continued help and unlimited support for the uprising, and also in the sacrifices of the Jordanian Armed Forces in defence of the Palestinian homeland. The Armed Forces constitute a tool for the Great Arab Revolt to achieve liberation for the Arabs and to defend their soil and protect their interests.

Give the 'better half' their half

By Waleed M. Sadi

THERE are faint references in our national laws about the equality between the sexes in Jordan. Our constitution ordains that Jordanians are equal irrespective of, inter alia, their gender. Beyond that cardinal prescription, little has been legislated into our body of civil laws which could lend support to our constitutional protestations that our males and females are equal. The only notable exception was when we finally acceded in 1984 to the dictates of modern age and common sense and bestowed on our women the right to run for the Lower House of parliament. To be sure we have succumbed to our constitutional and treaty obligations by acceding to our females token presence and representation here and there in public and private bodies and institutions as if they were mere ornaments with very little to offer their people and country other than their good looks. We even dared to appoint women ministers in past cabinets to serve as symbolic proof that half of our population do really count. Even that modest yet bold initiative by some of our previous prime ministers has been abandoned of late instead of being consolidated by fortifying their presence in our most recent cabinet formations. On a lower level, we have yet to see women undersecretaries in ministries where women's expertise and feminine touch, over and beyond their know-how, could be put to the optimum use. By ignoring the talents of half of our people and confining their employment to certain marginal and peripheral spheres of public and private life, we have in effect brutally sacrificed half of our human resources. This is not to suggest that being teachers, nurses and secretaries and junior officials is tantamount to inhuman or degrading treatment of our women. Far from it. All such jobs and tasks are necessary and useful besides being honourable. What is fatally missing is the lack of real opportunities that are being offered to our most knowledge-

able women to serve in posts with higher responsibilities commensurate with their areas of expertise and experience.

I can almost hear the whisper and the often expressed notion that whereas men and women are equal, they remain different. But of course women are different from men. Even little boys and girls know that. It is also true that due to their differences there are areas of work, tasks and missions that women can perform better than men. And the opposite is also true. Yet this foregone conclusion and observation have not precluded women in the developed countries from assuming high public positions on par with men in more domains than ever. In fact such countries have become eligible for membership in the developed countries club when and only when they allowed their respective nations to profit from the knowledge, experience and wisdom of their "better sex." For as long as half of the population of any given country is left "unused" efficiently and fully, it stands to reason that the G.N.P. and well-being of that country would have to suffer. One can feel at this juncture the grim reminder that blemishing and healthy and proper rearing of our children and youth would be compromised and the family nucleus of our society would be fatally damaged should our women be encouraged to abandon their husbands, children and homes. I could be readily reminded that the experience of the Western world has substantiated the long held suspicion that morality (sexual morality) had gone down the drain with the emancipation of women to the extent that they had achieved thus far. In fact some would and could point out that the very drug epidemic in the west has its roots in the breakdown of the family structure in the developed world. And who wants our society to pay so dearly just to prove a point that women and men are equal and are capable of performing similar tasks in the majority of the

public and private domains?

One can easily rebut such short-sighted accusations even when some are well founded. The deteriorations in the family situation in the West are not attributable to the emancipation of women per se. One has to concede that the social fabric in the West did not suffer principally from the fact that more women than ever are bread earners. The reasons for the breakdown in the family unity in the West are indeed complex. Some are economical and cultural in nature rather than being directly and organically related to the enlarged civil and political freedoms accorded to women.

In our case in Jordan, and elsewhere in the Arab World, one need not experience the very same fate as the developed world had encountered as a result of greater women joining the working and professional force. It is sheer nonsense to conclude that if we had more able women in cabinet posts for example, our social fabric would irreparably suffer.

Besides the world judges whether a certain country is faithful to its legal and treaty obligations to grant women equal rights and opportunities by chronicling and documenting the number of women that occupy high public and private posts. We have to admit that judging by the number of women that we have now occupying high posts we must be deemed as having failed to live up to our constitutional and treaty obligations. May we then expect some early rectification of the unsatisfactory situation and for of our women by having, for example, more than one cabinet minister and by electing women representatives in the Lower House of our Parliament. And coming to think of it, why not appoint an able elderly lady to the House of Notables. After all our women also get wiser with age just like our appointed men.



This 13-year-old boy did not want to be identified. He was trying to hang the Palestinian flag across electricity wires in his village when he slipped and was electrocuted. This photograph was taken 22 days after

the incident. There have been several recorded incidents of the army forcing youngsters up electricity poles to remove flags (Photo by Peter Gardner)

What the camera did not record

Editor's note: The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) in Jerusalem has been publishing an "uprising update," which aims to clarify the existing human rights situation as it develops in the occupied territories, as the uprising enters its sixth month. The information bulletin is distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, whose international office is in Chicago. These updates will be published in the Jordan Times as they are received. Included in these information bulletins are lists of those killed during the

uprising, as confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, lists of detainees, and updated human rights reports as they develop. While some sources and background material is publicly available, most of the information comes from first hand reports, fieldworker visits to hospitals, refugee camps, towns and villages, and from working relationships between the PHRIC and other institutions in the occupied territories. The material is collected and verified in Jerusalem and sent to Chicago, where the updates are produced and distributed internationally.

Expansion of settlements and roads

On April 27 the Israelis announced plans to go ahead in building road #60, which is intended to connect settlements to Jerusalem and Hebron. The road will divide Khader village (Bethlehem) from which 1600 dunams are to be confiscated; 20 houses are also to be destroyed.

Tamoun village (Nablus) had been under siege for 36 days May 2 when the head of the village was told 19,000 dunams would be confiscated in order to build a new settlement. The siege was lifted May 4.

Land planted with citrus in Kalkilya has been confiscated for a new road linking settlements. Trees were uprooted and planted land damaged in Akrahe (Nablus) in connection with a road being built for Ma'ale Efraim. Two hundred dunams were confiscated from Ein Yabrud (Ramallah) May 2 for the expansion of Ofa.

A thousand olive and other fruit trees belonging to Ali Odeh Ghazal were destroyed in Qissan (Bethlehem) April 29. The army declared the area a closed military zone and entered. They shot into the home of Ali Musa Ali Ghazal, wounding him, and also wounded Hussein Ibbayat. Ibbayat's brother, Abad Ibbayat Ta'ameh, was killed January 14 as he was herding sheep. Settlers shot at a herd of sheep May 3, killing 3 of them. Five hundred more trees were bulldozed May 13. Over half the village agricultural land has been destroyed in the past few weeks. More than 20 houses there are slated for destruction. The village and several near it are in the path of settlement expansion.

Sieges

Long sieges on villages, in which water, electricity and telephones are cut; transport of food, agricultural and other products is prohibited; movement in and out of the village (except sometimes in medical emergencies) is forbidden; and soldiers surround the village and enter it frequently, using tear gas and live ammunition to conduct raids, make arrests and/or suppress activity have become common. The conditions of the sieges make knowledge of what goes on during them extremely difficult to obtain, especially combined with other difficulties in reporting. Unless the siege is begun by a definite, known event like the collaborator killing to Kabatyra or the shooting in Kufir Malek (see above) it is possible not to know a village is under siege until someone manages to leave the village and report it or until the siege is lifted. For example, the siege in Um Safa (Ramallah) was not known about until a major raid there April 22. All the village fences were destroyed and 30 people were arrested. The siege had been going on for 35 days at that point and was only lifted May 1. A siege continues in Kufir Malek (Ramallah); attention was drawn to it when the village held a symbolic funeral for Abu Jihad despite the siege April 22 and when a helicopter raid in the mountains resulted in 10 arrests May 1. The several-month-long siege at Beit Ur a-Tahta (Ramallah) became visible May 6 when 15 trees were reported uprooted there. Even villages where sieges have ended, such as Kabatyra and Yamoun, remain without electricity.

Shorter sieges have occurred at Za'atara (Bethlehem), Khirbat Bani Harbith (Ramallah), Halhout, Sura (Hebron), Abwin, Beni Na'im (Nablus), Ithna, Ras Karkar (Ramallah) and Janih (Ramallah). The village of Jayous asked the ICRC to intervene May 12 because of shortages of food and medicine caused by the siege there; the siege was lifted May 14.

The curfews on Jalazon (43 days), Amari (24 days) and Kalandya (8 days) refugee camps were lifted on April 24, along with an 8-day curfew on Dheish camp during which 25 people were severely beaten. A 9-day curfew on Kalkilya was also lifted, but was changed into an open-ended curfew from 6:00 p.m. to midnight every night. On May 6 the curfew was changed to extend from 4:00 p.m. to midnight. Hab-

la (Kalkilya) was placed under a similar curfew from 6:00 p.m. until midnight May 6; food is not being allowed to reach the village. A 10-day curfew on Aida camp was lifted April 25; 14 people were injured from tear gas and rubber bullets during it.

The second entrance to Kalaodya refugee camp was closed May 3 and four small entrances May 5. One gate was closed at Askar, 2 at Balata, and 1 at Jabalya May 3. The major, and many small entrances have already been closed at most camps.

Demonstrations

Clashes between the population of the territories and the Israeli army and settlers continue to be an ongoing feature of daily life. Many of these, follow a standard pattern of demonstration/army response/class; many are begun by army attempts to force people to clear streets and erase graffiti; many when Israeli cars or buses are stoned; many when the army gratuitously enters villages and camps. There has been an increase in the numbers of homes the army has entered and vandalised. On April 23, for example, houses were raided in Beit Jalla, where a 50-year-old woman was beaten, in Antas (Bethlehem), 6-7 houses in Dheish, and in Turnos Ayele. Mustafa Mustafa Ibrahim Abu Zeid, 17, was killed in Kabatyra that day. There was a demonstration in the village. The army assaulted the village at the roadblock, using tear gas and live ammunition. Then it retreated; a 2-engine plane circled over the village; the army returned and invaded. Abu Zeid was shot in the back and buried by his family. The military circulated a story that he had assaulted them with an axe.

A list of demonstrations for April 28 includes Kufir Malek, Hebron (clashes with settlers), Halhout, Kalaodya, Ramallah, Bireh, Kalkilya (settlers), Bitunia (soldiers erased graffiti and scrawled stars of David), Jenin, Amari, Kabatyra, the old city of Nablus, Abwin, Salem (15 cars and a busload of soldiers, bulldozers and helicopters in the ear-

ly morning). Rafah (a march by 1000 schoolgirls, tear gassed), Jabalya, Rimal and Sabra. This is on a day claimed "quiet" by the Israelis. A list for May 8 includes Beit Sahour (after Sunday Mass, journalists were barred from the area and people prohibited from reaching Mass), Kalkilya (settlers and army), Ras Karkar, Bani Na'im (where people built a monument to the dead and the cars belonging to the head of the municipal council and his deputy were burned), Samou', Hebron, Jayous (was raided, fences were destroyed, houses entered and vandalised, and over 20 people arrested), Husan, many villages in the Jenin region, Beit Fajar (where houses were raided and vandalised), Dheish (where youths were beaten and tens of id cards confiscated) and Kufir Deik.

On May 13, the last Friday in Ramadan, 17,000 people reached al-Aqsa despite severe restrictions on access. Tens of Palestinians from inside Israel were prevented from reaching the mosque and roads from the territories were blocked; an estimated 3000-3500 police and borderguards were on duty in East Jerusalem. During the demonstrations following the prayers Israeli and American flags were burned. Over 20 people were arrested, 60-70 were treated at the mosque clinic for tear gas inhalation and 17 were treated in the Makasad hospital for tear gas and rubber bullet injuries. In Jenin Statement 16 of the National Leadership of the Uprising was read over the mosque loudspeakers. There were massive army pre-emptive actions in Nablus, Balata, Ein Beit Al-Maa' and both Askar camps; clashes in Jenin; demonstrations after mosque in Hebron, Sa'ir, Tarqumia, Kalkilya (where 7 houses were raided), Halboul (where a Kinyat Arba bus was stoned), Ramallah, Bireh, Ein Arik (where a curfew was used to make arrests), Amari, Abu Dis (where two collaborators repented in the mosque), Silwad, Azaria, Beit Fajar, and Dheish (despite curfew). After the evening meal people came to console the family of Ibrahim Mohammad Hussein, 34, who was killed by soldiers May 9). The army and Shin Bet came to arrest people in Kabatyra at 9:30 p.m. and shot Mufleh Zeid Mahmud Abu Zeid, 30, in his home. A clash broke out in the wake of his killing.

Note: These dates have been chosen as examples of what has been occurring during a period of Israeli propaganda has insisted is quiet and the media abroad have not covered.

Oman's discreet Gulf diplomacy keeps doors open to all

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

MUSCAT — The Chinese commercial attaché samples the prawn canapes, waiters weave between Saudi and American ambassadors, the Iranian chargé d'affaires chats amiably with other diplomats.

This is the cocktail circuit Oman-style, a rare show of conviviality glossing over the tensions of a volatile region with a long history of hostility and a short fuse for diplomacy.

Here, rivals in the complex world of Middle East politics rub shoulders easily under the same roof.

Oman, dragged by the scruff of the neck into the 20th century in Sultan Qaboos Bin Said 18 years ago, is fast gaining a reputation for neutrality and political independence in a region scarred by the protracted Gulf war.

Sultan Qaboos, a 47-year-old absolute ruler trained at Sandhurst Military Academy in England, may be pro-Western and rely on a traditionally discreet and low-key link with Britain for the training of his armed forces. But unlike the leaders in most neighbouring Gulf states he has refused to side openly with Baghdad against Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Tehran regime and so far avoided being sucked into the conflict.

"Oman's rugged Musandam peninsula juts out into the narrow strip of water, dubbed by President Reagan as a 'chokepoint of freedom.' One-sixth of the non-Communist world's oil is shipped through the strait, scene of countless attacks on merchant vessels by Iranian gunboats."

"It is a difficult and necessary balancing act," said one Western diplomat in Muscat. "And one the Omanis have so far done consummately well."

The balancing act is all the more difficult since it has been conducted from a position of economic weakness as oil earnings slide and has often meant going against opinion in the Arab World.

When the Arabs broke off relations with Egypt over the 1978 Camp David accords with Israel, Oman refused to follow suit.

Now Egypt has been readmitted to mainstream Arab fold, Muscat officials see their original decision as justified.

It is a necessary balancing act since Oman has to live with Iran, which has Silksworn missile sites less than 60 miles away across the Strait of Hormuz.

Oman's rugged Musandam peninsula juts out into the narrow strip of water, dubbed by President Reagan as a "chokepoint of freedom." One-sixth of the non-Communist world's oil is shipped through the strait, scene of countless attacks on merchant vessels by Iranian gunboats.

Diplomats said Oman was almost certainly embarrassed by a recent spate of Iranian raids on neutral shipping. But there has been no more than harsh words

between the small Omani navy which polices traffic in the waterway and the Iranians.

It was on Omani soil last September that 26 Iranian seamen who survived a U.S. attack on their mine-laying boat were handed over for repatriation.

When Saudi Arabia broke off relations with Iran in April, accusing Tehran of plotting disturbances at this year's pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, Oman adopted its traditionally low profile.

"Sometimes the other Gulf states get annoyed at Oman's independence and fabric of being the odd man out," said another diplomat.

"But those states also realise full well they still have a bridge open to Iran through the Omanis."

It is behind the scenes that Oman prefers to conduct its diplomacy, although contacts with Soviet and Chinese diplomats stationed in Muscat have yielded scant progress in implementing a United Nations ceasefire call in the Iran-Iraq war.

Frustrated with Arabs Indeed, Sultan Qaboos is thought unlikely to put his reputation on the line and play the role of public broker between Iran and Iraq unless there are clear signs of a breakthrough in talks over last July's U.N. resolution which Tehran has refused to accept.

By the same token, Sultan Qaboos, who overthrew his isolationist father and began to open up the country of 1.5 million people to the Western world in 1970, has sometimes sent representatives to the region's numerous conferences rather than attend in person, apparently frustrated by the lack of results.

He did not, for example, attend this week's Arab summit in Algiers called to discuss the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories.

Such decisions have not always proved popular with the other five member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

But as one government adviser said: "His majesty will not attend a conference if he does not think it is worthwhile."

That independence shows through in Oman's oil policy, crucial for a nation which sees its economic fortunes rise and fall in line with volatile world prices.

It has not tied itself to restrictive production quotas by joining the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but has often cooperated closely with the 13-nation group.

Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari was one of the architects behind proposals earlier this year for OPEC and non-OPEC nations to agree joint production cuts to shore up prices.

That deal fell through, but Shanfari will be on the sidelines as an observer at OPEC's next conference on June 11 in Vienna where some oil analysts fear divisions between Iran and Iraq could test the organisation's unity to breaking point.

As if sensing further discord and the reluctance of Saudi Arabia to cut output if it would boost prices and help Iran, Oman has turned its back on production restraint and opened the oil taps wide to pump about 630,000 barrels per day.

Ozal visit to Athens unlikely to produce breakthrough in ties

ATHENS (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Athens Monday is unlikely to produce a breakthrough on the problems of Cyprus and the Aegean Sea demarcation that bedevil relations between the two North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members.

But the visit, the first by a Turkish prime minister in 36 years, is a new step in a peace initiative launched by Ozal and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in the Swiss resort of Davos in January, diplomats and officials in Athens and Ankara said.

Tight security has been imposed, particularly around Ozal's plush seaside hotel, and 5,000 police have been mobilised to prevent a recurrence of the bombings that disrupted a visit two weeks ago by Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

A number of groups — including Cypriots, Kurds and Armenians — have planned demonstrations and graffiti scrawled on walls in central Athens has urged Ozal to "stay home."

No formal agenda has been set for the three-day visit, which includes a private dinner Tuesday.

The two leaders, building on the "no war" process launched in Davos, will almost certainly focus

on the division of Cyprus and on Aegean delimitation — a dispute which nearly set off a war between the two countries in March 1987.

Greece wants a complete withdrawal of Turkish troops from the Turkish-Cypriot state declared five years ago in the island's northern third.

Ozal said last week in the United States that Turkey could not pull out "even one soldier" under pressure. Ankara has linked a withdrawal to progress in talks expected to take place this month between Rauf Denktaş, leader of the breakaway state, and Cyprus President George Vassiliou.

Greek Cypriots, fearing concessions may be made against their interests, have erected banners in Nicosia saying "Cyprus asks: Why the Ozal visit?" And unions on the Mediterranean island have called for a one-hour strike Monday in protest.

Turkish troops invaded the island in 1974 after the collapse of a coup backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar urged in a report to the Security Council last week that Turkey withdraw its estimated 20,000 troops from north-

ern Cyprus as a start to building confidence between Greeks and Turks on the island.

Officials in Ankara say progress is possible on the Aegean, mainly over the continental shelf demarcation issue fundamental to air space and mineral rights.

Turkey is also likely to raise what it sees as Greece's hindering of its development of relations with the European Economic Community (EEC).

Ankara-based diplomats say both leaders have pinned their political futures at least partially to rapprochement and should reach some conclusions to help heal longstanding enmity between their countries.

"Failure may set back the largely atmospheric result of the Davos talks and affect public opinion in both countries," a senior diplomat in Ankara said.

One diplomat in Athens predicted the talks could yet produce surprises despite low-key media coverage.

Political analysts in both countries say Ozal could offer as a gesture a conditional troop withdrawal plan on Cyprus or suggest handing over to U.N. control Varosha — the deserted Greek Cypriot sector of the port of Famagusta.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Taba panel said to favour Egypt

TEL AVIV (R) — An international tribunal has decided to return to Egypt the Taba beachfront to settle a six-year-old border dispute with Israel, the daily newspaper Davar said Sunday. Davar, belonging to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, quoted a senior Israeli official as saying three of five arbitrators voted in Geneva last month in favour of Egypt, which lost the 700-metre strip in the 1967 war. The Egyptian representative on the panel supported the proposal, and only professor Ruth Lapidot, the Israeli member, voted against it, the newspaper said. It did not say how the fifth member voted. A foreign ministry spokesman told Reuters the report was premature and he could not comment on it. "There's not even a hint that this is official," he said, "and as long as it's not official, I don't have anything to comment on."

Pakradouni calls for U.N. troops

BEIRUT (R) — Rightist hardliners Sunday called for the United Nations to send an international force to Lebanon and ensure that all foreign armies pull out. "We ask the United Nations, in particular Security Council members the United States and the Soviet Union, to ensure the withdrawal of all foreign armies," Karim Pakradouni, deputy leader of the Lebanese Forces militia told a rally. He urged the United Nations to "sponsor Lebanese national reconciliation and send international troops to protect its borders as the international solution is the one that will put the final end to the Lebanese war." The Lebanese Forces strongly opposes Syrian military and political involvement in Lebanon.

Iran, Pakistan 'sign nuclear pact'

LONDON (AP) — Iran and Pakistan have signed a secret nuclear pact aimed at developing Iran's nuclear technology, a British newspaper reported Sunday. The Liberal Observer said the agreement was reached at a meeting in Vienna last year between Dr. Reza Amerollahi, head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, and Dr. Munir Ahmad Khan, chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission. As a result, the paper said, six Iranian nuclear experts are receiving advanced training in Pakistan. The Observer gave no source for the story, except to say the "main outlines" of the agreement were known to the paper. The paper said Iran had made a number of attempts to obtain Pakistani assistance in the development of nuclear technology through the Economic Cooperation Organisation whose members are Turkey, Pakistan and Iran.

Ethiopia says 'bandits' killed

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian government troops killed a large group of "bandits" — the term used for rebels — near the northern town of Korem Saturday, state-owned Addis Ababa radio reported. The radio, monitored in Nairobi, said three "bandit brigades" were wiped out while attempting to infiltrate Korem and surrounding areas. Ethiopian troops were pursuing the survivors and had captured huge quantities of weapons, it said. The rebels had disrupted the distribution of relief aid to drought victims and damaged development infrastructure in the area. Korem is an important centre for the distribution of relief food in Tigray region. The Tigray People's Liberation Front, the main rebel group operating there, has not reported the government victory, although it has recently claimed to have carried out successful attacks on government troops in several areas of Tigray.

Iranian gunboats thumb noses at American navy

DUBAI (R) — A spate of attacks on foreign ships shows Iranian gunboats can still thumb their noses at the U.S. navy in the Gulf, shipping sources said Sunday.

They said Iranian gunboats which hit a British supertanker and West German cargo ship Saturday were undeterred by the threat of intervention from the U.S. fleet of about 30 warships in or near the Gulf.

"The Iranians seem to be gambling that Washington isn't serious about stopping these attacks," a shipping source said. "The gamble has paid off... so far."

The latest raids, which set the 258,979-tonne tanker Esso Dementia ablaze and killed a Filipino seaman on the 11,744-tonne container ship Dbaulagiri, brought to six the number of Iranian attacks in the last three weeks.

The Iranians have picked their targets carefully, with each raid staged far from any patrolling

U.S. warship. The gunboats sped back unscathed to their bases without any U.S. attempt to intervene.

Iran has about 25 Swedish-made Boghammar boats armed with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades that can race along at 40 knots, outpacing any U.S. frigate or destroyer.

Hundreds of smaller, slower speedboats fitted with makeshift weapons are also based on the Iranian coast, many near the Strait of Hormuz where the Dhaulagiri was hit.

"The Americans could blow these boats out of the water any time they wanted," said a source. "It's as though Iran is daring Washington to get into a fight."

The Iranians came off much the worse in their last clash when

the U.S. navy sank or disabled six Iranian naval craft on April 18. After that encounter, Washington announced April 29 that its warships would protect any neutral merchant ship attacked in the Gulf if it asked for assistance.

The Esso Dementia, owned by the U.S. multi-national Exxon, was the first attack by Iranian gunboats in the central part of the Gulf for several months. Nearly all their recent attacks had been concentrated near the mouth of the waterway.

A U.S. navy spokesman in the Gulf said a U.S. warship sailed towards the Esso Dementia after it was hit but the tanker did not request help.

Firefighters put out the blaze on board after six hours.

Iran has attacked 37 ships this year serving Arab states in the Gulf.

Tehran make a point of retaliating for Iraqi air raids on Iranian shipping ferrying oil out of the Gulf to fund the war.

Arafat: Palestinians reject U.S. plan for 'slavery in golden cage'

LONDON (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in his first public speech in Libya for six years that Palestinians had rejected a U.S. peace plan as "slavery in a golden cage."

He told the Libyan general people's congress in the eastern city of Al Bayda that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had come to the Middle East during last week's Arab summit "to influence with his American weight the summit resolutions."

"Those heroes, the stone-throwers, answered him," the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman declared in the speech screened by Libyan television monitored in London.

"They answered Shultz by saying to him: 'Who told you Yankee we want to improve our situation? What we want is free-

dom and not slavery, even in a golden cage,'" Arafat added.

"You may remember that they also talked about a Marshall plan for the Middle East and our decision was, oh brothers, not to all these initiatives, and our reply was the revolution of anger and the revolution of stones," Arafat said.

The Shultz plan provides only limited "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. It rejects the Palestinians' demand for self-determination and a state of their own and does not recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

The Algiers summit reaffirmed the Arab leaders' recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and gave the

PLO its unqualified moral and material support.

Arafat said in his speech that it had been no coincidence that Shultz had been on a tour of the Middle East just before the Algiers summit was convened.

"Does it mean that he liked the climate of our region? No, what really happened, brothers, was that he wanted to influence with his American weight the resolutions of the summit, in conformity with the will of the American administration, that is their plan for the region."

Arafat ended a six-year rift with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi when he visited Tripoli in April following the assassination of his deputy Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), by gunmen widely believed to have been Israeli agents.

North planned to use Waite 'to get Qadhafi,' book says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Oliver North planned to use British hostage negotiator Terry Waite to lure Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to his headquarters so he would be killed by U.S. bombs in 1986, according to a book excerpted Saturday.

The book, "Best Laid Plan, the Inside Story of America's War Against Terrorism," written by CBS news reporter David Martin and John Walcott of the Wall Street Journal, details the U.S.

air raid against Libya April 14, 1986. It is excerpted in the current edition of U.S. News and World Report.

According to the authors, North, then on the staff of the National Security Council, pitched a plan to the White House under which Waite would be asked to go to Tripoli on the day of the attack to seek Qadhafi's help in obtaining the release of American hostages in Lebanon. Waite, an Anglican church en-

voy, had no knowledge of the imminent attack. He was later abducted while in Beirut seeking the release of foreign hostages and remains a hostage himself.

North hoped Waite's visit would make Qadhafi decide to spend the night in his compound, where he would be killed in the U.S. raid, the book alleges.

The plan was rejected because it was an assassination plot and violated U.S. law, according to the excerpt.

Prime minister reaffirms Jordan's position

(Continued from page 1)

minister said.

Rifai told Sharq Al Awsat that there were no differences between Jordan and the PLO and that the resolutions of the Algiers summit were adopted after discussions and agreement was reached among all Arab leaders attending the conference, including the King and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "Jordan's position is clear," the prime minister said. "We have no ambitions in Palestinian territory. Our only goal is to liberate the land to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their natural right to self-determination on their national soil. Jordan will support any joint Arab work towards realising these objectives."

Rifai said prospects for convening an international conference on the Middle East were contingent on many factors, most important among them an agreement between the two superpowers and the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. As long as these factors remained missing, no invitations could be issued to the proposed conference, Rifai noted.

Rifai underlined the importance of a joint initiative by the five permanent members of the Security Council, in particular a joint approach by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, in settling the Middle East conflict and referred to Israel's rejection of the proposal for an international conference.

However, Rifai, said the picture would become clearer only after the presidential elections

in the U.S. and the general elections in Israel. "One cannot say whether the conference could be convened in the foreseeable future," the prime minister told Al Sharq Al Awsat.

Rifai pointed out that His Majesty had outlined in his Algiers speech as well as on many previous occasions that the U.S., which extends financial, military, political and strategic support for Israel, is in a position to apply pressure on the Zionist state to make it accept the proposal for an international conference based on international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions which rule out occupation of others' land by force. "So far, the U.S. has not applied any pressure in this direction," Rifai said.

Rifai described the Algiers summit as a success saying the conference was convened to discuss means to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and noted that the King had referred to the uprising as a popular revolt against Israel's occupation of Arab territory.

The prime minister said the Algiers discussions were brotherly and characterised by frankness and clarity. He said the participation in the summit by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz contributed greatly to the success of the conference and his proposals had a great impact on the course of the discussions.

In reply to a question on King Hussein's proposal for a pan-Arab deployment force, Rifai said such a force was necessary to counter any dan-

ger facing any part of the Arab World. He expressed hope that the proposal would soon be translated into action because "it is a step in the path of Arab military integration."

On the economic situation in Jordan, the prime minister said the Jordanian dinar remained stable and strong. "What happened recently was the result of a crisis which was the result of currency speculation by some individuals and had no objective ground whatsoever," he said.

The prime minister noted that a special committee had been formed to draw up principles for dealing between the Central Bank and commercial banks with a view to increasing the flow of foreign currency into Jordan and rationalising foreign currency spending.

On internal security, the prime minister said the situation was good. "We enjoy stability and have no security problems at all," he said. "The recent bomb explosions in Amman were perpetrated by a terrorist organisation with whose terror the Arabs and the whole world has become familiar," he said.

Asked whether Jordan was planning to take constitutional measures to disassociate itself from the West Bank — such as dissolving parliament and reforming government and dissolving institutions in the West Bank, Rifai said the time was not appropriate to ask or answer such questions. "We should not rush things," he said.

Egypt seeks to counter Nile threat

By Alan George
Panos feature

CAIRO — "The great challenge confronting us — that is how Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak recently described the problem of falling water levels in the Nile. It was, if anything, an understatement, for Egypt owes its very existence to the river.

The Nile's flow has been declining for the past seven years because of successive droughts in the river's East African catchment area. Since 1980 the level of Lake Nasser, the reservoir behind Egypt's massive Aswan High Dam, has fallen by 20 metres. In 1985-86 alone the lake fell by three metres and there was a further 10-metre drop in 1986-87.

The declining water levels could be disastrous for agriculture, which forms the backbone of the economy and is entirely dependent on irrigation from the river. The water problem also threatens severe power shortages, for 20 per cent of Egypt's electricity comes from the power plant at the Aswan High Dam and if Lake Nasser's

level falls too far, the turbines will be left high and dry.

The station's design capacity is 1,850 megawatts but the electricity minister, Mohammad Abu Abaza, says that the plant's capacity will fall to 750 megawatts if Lake Nasser falls below 150 metres above sea level. By January, the lake had

already fallen to 158 metres and the level is expected to fall to just above 150 metres by July, when the annual Nile flood starts. Mubarak warned, however, that if the lake should fall to 147 metres, then "the dam's entire power supply will stop."

To counter the crisis, the government announced a series of measures in May aimed at conserving water and electricity. Ministries and other government agencies have been put on a five-day week (one day

less than normal) and shops have been ordered to close one hour earlier. A series of one-hour cuts are being imposed on industrial and residential electricity supplies and television stations have been asked to transfer popular programmes to times of day when electricity demand is low. Factories are

being urged to install solar power units.

The great River Nile is running dry. By this July the Aswan High Dam, which irrigates and powers much of Egypt, will have drained to just one metre above the intakes for the dam's hydroelectric generators. One metre more and the dam's entire power supply will stop. The solutions: rationing of power and water, and construction of more natural gas-fired power stations.

of a new dam on the Nile at Rashid, near Alexandria, to reduce the river's flow into the Mediterranean.

At the same time, the Electricity Ministry has announced plans for 20 new thermal power stations, with a combined capacity of 5,500 megawatts, to offset declining production from Aswan and make good an electricity shortfall which was expected even without the threat to the Aswan. Contracts for several of the stations have already been signed and bids will be invited for the others in the coming months. Six of the plants, with a combined capacity of 1,600 megawatts, will be commissioned in 1989, four with a total capacity of 1,200 megawatts will open in 1990, and the five others with a combined 1,100 megawatts are for completion in 1992. In the short term, a series of gas turbine stations is being installed.

Renewed Aswan debate
The Nile water crisis has prompted renewed debate over the long-term costs and benefits of the High Dam. Commissioned in 1971 and hailed as one

of the major achievements of Nasser's regime, the dam has certainly boosted the country's electricity supplies. It has also brought a major expansion of agricultural output by regularising the river's flow and allowing two crops per year instead of one.

However, the dam has also necessitated massive and costly fertilisation of farmland. Before the dam, no such artificial measures were needed because fertility was maintained naturally by the annual Nile flood which deposited rich silt on the fields.

The end of the annual flood has also had dramatic effects in the Nile Delta region, where most of the country's 50 million people live. The level of the Mediterranean is slowly rising, but this used to be offset by the annual silt deposits from the Nile. Since the Aswan dam was completed, coastal erosion has accelerated sharply.

Moreover, the dam has entailed massive water losses from seepage and evaporation. In 1984 alone an estimated two billion cu m of water was lost from Lake Nasser.

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Flaming Sound

Arab Bank adds high technology to traditionalism

By Rami G. Khouri

AMMAN — The Arab Bank Limited has always been known throughout the Middle East as big, safe, profitable and slightly old-fashioned. In recent years, its competitors have viewed it as a sleeping giant, and one which preferred the proven safety of the Shoman family management style to the more innovative and aggressive practices of other banks in the region.

About 18 months ago, however, it started stirring, prodded by more sober regional economic realities and an intensely competitive global banking environment. Last year, it launched a modernisation and marketing strategy that looks set to maintain its position as one of the few Arab banks which can compete seriously with larger international banks on a regional and global scale.

Its move is also a timely case study of how a traditional, family-run Arab company can adapt its management and business strategy to keep up with the times.

Established in Jerusalem in 1930 by an entrepreneurial young Palestinian named Abdul Hameed Shoman, the bank's first four decades were characterised by steady expansion throughout the Middle East, North Africa and West Europe.

When it recognised the need to attack the markets more aggressively last year, it had an array of impressive but under-exploited assets to draw upon. These included a retail network of 75 branches, offshore banking units, wholly-owned subsidiaries and sister institutions in 12 Arab states and in 15 countries in Europe, the USA, Africa, Australia and the Far East; a unique, 58-year-old legacy of safeguarding clients' deposits and investors' equity despite repeated wars, military occupations and bank nationalisations throughout a notoriously turbulent region; substantial capital resources, market clout and professional credibility that dwarf many governments in the area; and universal banking capabilities delivered through a global network of retail, wholesale and merchant banking offices.

Its reputation for safety throughout the Arab World was legendary, though its profitability and market share were both being eroded by scores of aggressive new banks which had opened for business during the oil-fuelled decade after 1974, many of which enjoyed the cushion of substantial government capital. As one competitor in Amman said recently, "the Arab Bank's name is magic in the market, but how

long can any institution live by magic alone?"

The point was appreciated by the founder's two sons who have run the bank for years. Chairman Abdul Majeed Shoman and Deputy Chairman Khalid Shoman; they still personally approve all senior management decisions, and, with other members of the family, they own 17 per cent of total equity.

The 76-year-old chairman, who has been with the bank for 51 years, still comes into the office at 6:30 a.m. to read all important mail and telexes. The younger Cambridge-educated Khalid spends six months a year travelling the world to maintain close contacts with the bank's overseas branches and major clients.

While many argue that such close personal control of the Arab Bank by the Shoman family has been the hallmark of its strength for over half a century, critics see it as a severe and outdated management constraint that has inhibited the bank from living up to the full potential of its reputation, network and size.

Several years of flat earnings in the recessionary regional economy of the mid-1980s finally awakened the Shoman's to the need to adjust policies to stop the deterioration in both market shares and net profitability.

The policy adopted in late 1986 has focused on four basic areas: More aggressive regional lending (particularly in the home market of Jordan, which still accounts for over 17 per cent of the group balance sheet); globally coordinated money market strategies among dealing rooms in London, Paris, Bahrain, Singapore, Sydney and New York; more efficient technological applications, both for retail clients and to cut backroom operational costs; and further international expansion into new markets which trade with the Arab World.

The first year's results indicate the strategy seems to be working. In 1987, the Arab Bank Group increased its balance sheet total (including guarantees and letters of credit) by \$1 billion, to \$15.4 billion, while shareholders' equity rose from \$676 million to \$785 million. Net income increased by 7.9 per cent to \$82 million, on

substantially higher net income from loans, commissions and foreign exchange dealings. The bank's lending portfolio increased by 20 per cent during the year, to \$3.517 billion.

"When we lost Palestine in 1948 and then the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, and had our assets nationalised in several countries during the past several decades, we learned the key role of capital adequacy and liquidity in the banking business in this part of the world," Khalid Shoman told the Jordan Times in Amman recently.

The Arab Bank has fared much better than most other Middle Eastern institutions because of its tradition of ploughing back a substantial share of net profits into its inner reserves, which total over \$300 million. A high liquidity ratio of 65-70 per cent, a general aversion to securities and a very conservative approach to risky lending in the Third World have helped the bank avoid most of the problems faced by other international Arab banks.

Its doubtful debts average about five per cent of loans, and bad loans are written off annually from the same year's income. It enjoys the added cushion of having a book value of foreign assets (mainly equity in joint venture) well below actual market prices; its stake in Arab National Bank in Saudi Arabia, for example, is worth (Saudi riyals) SR 60 million on its books, but over SR 700 million in the market.

The bank rules out a public share issue to increase its capital base, preferring to increase capital from earnings.

During the past five years, it has increased its prime equity by over 57 per cent, and enjoys a capital/deposits ratio of 6 per cent; if measured by the new Bank of International Settlements (BIS) standards based on a weighted average of assets, its capital adequacy ratio is an impressive 14 per cent (compared to the BIS target of 8 per cent).

Its conservative banking philosophy is a matter of frequent discussion among fellow Arab bankers, many of whom fault it for being too slow to venture into new fields of activity. The Shomans and their small circle of senior managers seem to enjoy the debate, but quietly defer to their record of profitability.

They also point out that being old-fashioned has helped them avoid the current pitfalls of most other Arab banks who have recently reported flat or declining profits due to bad loans or to risky securities dealings in a volatile global market.

"We've always recognised that we had the choice either to be a tough guy who throws his weight around, or to keep a low profile, stick to basic banking, make sure our clients' money is safe, and sleep better at night," said Shoman.

The Shoman family wealth is invested entirely in the bank, which provides an added incentive for prudence, along with the realisation, in Khalid's words, that "many of our shareholders are small investors and families who virtually live off the income they derive from their shareholdings in the bank."

The bank's priority now is to market its services more aggressively — in itself a major management challenge given the different nature of its work in different markets. In Jordan and the Arab World, it is a large retail bank serving individuals, small businesses and large corpora-



Abdul Majeed Shoman

tions, focusing heavily on trade and project financing and providing some sovereign lending; its international business combines trade financing, foreign exchange and money market dealing, investment banking, personal banking and portfolio management.

"When our Jordan branch managers sent in their 1987 budgets in late 1986, they aimed for a JD 5 million increase in lending," Shoman said in an interview in Amman earlier this month. "I looked at the figures and told them we had to increase lending in 1987 by at least JD 100 million, or we would not make a profit in Jordan, which would have been unheard of."

At the end of the year, domestic lending increased by JD 112 million, and the bank's major borrowing clients in Jordan rose



by 50 per cent, from 2,000 to 3,000. This year the target is to increase lending by another JD 50 million, at least.

"Our expansion in the decade to 1983 was effortless, but the tougher market of the past three years has forced us to look at new business opportunities at home and abroad, while cutting costs and raising productivity," Shoman said.

Part of the pressure on the bank's profits in Jordan in recent years has reflected clients' shifting funds from current to deposit accounts; this has raised the bank's average cost of funds at a time when both Central Bank of Jordan directives and market forces have lowered lending rates and therefore appreciably squeezed margins.

After suffering several bank ruptcies among contractor clients in the late 1970s, it established an investment banking department in Amman to provide senior management with in-house studies on project feasibility and cash-flow prospects. Its own analyses of sectoral lending opportunities in

Jordan and the Arab World, such as in commercial vehicles, drugs, oils or agro-industries, has allowed it to anticipate credit requests and therefore to be able to assess them more accurately.

It is now preparing to launch a venture capital scheme by which it would share in the equity of new entrepreneurial projects, and then sell out to the owner after the project is on its feet.

Another profitable new business is hauling foreign currency notes around the world to provide foreign exchange dealers and even some central banks with their foreign currency needs. The business has focussed to date on the Middle East, the Far East and West Europe, but will soon also cover the United States.

Expansion constraints in Jordan and other Arab markets have forced the Arab Bank to keep developing its international businesses, which last year accounted for 55 per cent of the balance sheet, and nearly 60 per cent of profits — a ratio which it expects to remain stable for the years to come.

The bank has considered buying established branch networks abroad (it bid for Continental Illinois' branches in South Korea), while it has continued opening its own branches or subsidiaries (Austria and Australia are the latest), or rep offices such as those opened in the past three years in Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo.

Europe and the Far East remain the top growth markets, with a new Rome branch slated to be this year's only new foreign venture.

In dealings with major international banks, it capitalises on the fact that it is the only major Arab institution with a widespread retail base throughout the entire Middle East, which complements its global network and investment banking capabilities.

This has prompted the Arab Bank to venture cautiously into securities and money and capital market operations, such as its participation in the Eurotunnel financing and contractors' guarantees, and several Airbus aircraft financing deals.

The introduction of more sophisticated technology-driven management information systems is allowing it to consolidate the Arab and international sides of the business into a single global operation. It spends about 8 per cent a year of total operating expenses on data processing and telecommunications equipment, providing clients with single-teller service, ATMs, three-minute international cash transfers and drafts, decentralised payments of incoming transfers, check-cashing and payments at any branch, a fully integrated global communications and data processing network, and advanced dealing rooms linked together to provide each other and management in



Khalid Shoman

Amman with a daily report of worldwide positions and placements.

The bank is taking advantage of technological developments to open 15 "new office concept" mini-branches in Jordan this year. Each mini-branch, with just one or two employees, is electronically linked with a nearby full-service branch and with the rest of the global branch network.

"We see these new mini-branches as a means of extending counter services into the community, and of taking the bank's services closer to where our clients live and work, at cost levels far below those of opening a full-scale branch," Shoman explained.

The bank sees technology as a major factor in improving services and the productivity of the 3,200-strong staff, and in holding down costs. Technologies now being developed or introduced include point of sale systems, a corporate, home and telephone banking system, optical electronic signature verification and filing systems, and global logical and management information systems.

Such developments will allow the Arab Bank to properly exploit its global network for the first time, while creating a new profit centre of consultancy services. The bank's 40-strong in-house engineering staff develops about 90 per cent of the new data processing, communications and business management systems.

Management, planning and forecasting procedures have also emerged as a key element of the bank's new strategy — particularly when the bank realised that its share of total bank deposits in Jordan had declined in the early 1980s from 33 per cent to 26 per cent. Since 1983, one-year business plans for individual branches have been meshed into annual plans for the entire group. Branch-level forecasts and marketing plans launched in 1987 will be incorporated this year into country-wide marketing plans, to be followed soon by a three-year strategic plan for Jordan and other regional markets.

A shorter version of this article appeared in the Financial Times last week.



The foreign exchange dealing room at Arab Bank London branch (File photo).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 12, 1988

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	253578	JD 247699	30
Top two companies:			
Arah Insurance and Reinsurance	25112	JD 25112	4
Jordan Securities	30105	JD 22584	2
Parallel market:	35200	JD 10347	
Development bonds:	1295	13985	
Treasury bills & bonds:	187	1967	
Other debentures:	—	—	

Finance and Commodities Report

By Fouad Batshon

AMMAN — The American dollar was stable last week, but still traded near its highs against all major European currencies and the Japanese yen.

Speculators stood aside before the announcement of the American trade figure which is going to be released Tuesday. The figure is expected to be between \$10 billion to \$12 billion, an increase from \$ 9.75 billion figure released last month.

The scenario in dollar trading for the next two weeks is likely to be as follows:

If the trade figure is between (\$10-\$12) billion then the dollar will fall from a high of 1.7250 to around 1.6950, where speculators will be interested to buy the dollar against the Deutsche mark around those levels.

Charts indicate that the dollar/mark has the potential to move to a new high of 1.75 against the mark after the release of the trade figure.

In the local market, the dollar was well offered from banks and financial companies at the selling rates of the Central Bank of Jordan which made the dollar in a less bid situation than the previous three weeks.

The banks and financial companies were buying dollars on the middle rates of the Central Bank of Jordan daily bulletin.

The most interesting commodity in my opinion is the soybeans. Its movement is becoming too choppy mainly because of speculation.

Charts indicate that soybeans is a sell at the current level which is \$8.90 for July.

High demand and bad weather reports made speculators buy this commodity from the normal levels which were before one month ago around the \$6.50 a contract.

Soybeans should once again move lower towards the \$7.00 a contract because of low inflation and mainly because of better weather in the United States.

Following are some gold prices in Amman
Gold per gramme, 21 carats — JD 4.250
Gold per gramme, 18 carats — JD 3.850

Audit sees Exim Bank deficit reaching \$4.7b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank), which makes loans to push the sales of American goods abroad, has a deficit that may have reached \$4.7 billion last Sept. 30, according to an audit by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

The bank itself figures that it still had reserves of \$312 million on that date. In September, the GAO said the deficit may have reached \$3 billion a year previously while the bank said it had \$773 million in reserves.

The GAO, which makes investigations for Congress, blames the gaps on the refusal of the bank's management to take account of losses that are likely because some of its \$12.8 billion in outstanding loans are uncollectable.

It says \$6.7 billion in principal and interest was either delinquent or had been delayed in payment by "rescheduling" agreements.

The accepted practice has been for the bank to encourage the sale of American goods by offering the buyer in a Third World country at lower interest than the bank itself had to pay on the money it

borrowed from the U.S. government. Governments of other major exporting countries — notably France and Japan — compete to get orders for their industries, by also subsidising exports.

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Shriver breezes into Edgbaston tennis final

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — American Pam Shriver braved bitter cold Saturday to move into the final of the Dow Chemical Classic Women's Tennis Tournament, as rainouts earlier in the week forced players to shiver through two matches in one day.

In raw conditions that she described as "horrible — the worst ever," the top seed and four-time defending champion moved into Sunday's final with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 victory over third-seeded American Lori McNeil.

She will face second-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, who defeated another American, No. 4 Zina Garrison, 6-2, 6-4 on the grass courts of the Edgbaston Priory Club.

A disputed net call on a serve seemed to force Shriver up a gear against McNeil in the third set.

The turning point came with Shriver 3-2 ahead and holding double-break point after two great returns.

McNeil's next serve appeared to touch the net, but in the absence of a net-cord judge, the umpire failed to hear it and Shriver lost the point.

In sheer frustration she punched away a forehand volley on the next point to break for a 4-2 lead.

"I was mad at myself when I lost my serve and it affected my concentration when I should have been much smarter," Shriver said. "I needed a kick in the pants and I got it at 3-2."

Earlier in the day she beat Ros Fairbank of South Africa in the quarterfinals 6-2, 6-1. Rain washed out Wednesday's play and forced both the quarterfinals and semifinals to be held Saturday.

Kohde-Kilsch has yet to concede a set in this tournament and in her semi she was broken for the first time all week while serving for the match at 5-2 against Garrison.

The West German broke straight back for victory after earlier defeating New Zealander Belinda Cordwell 6-2, 7-6 in the quarterfinals.

It was just 50 degrees Fahrenheit on the centre court in Britain's supposedly hottest month, and Garrison never had a chance to warm up against Kohde-Kilsch.

Smith to play Lutz in final

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (AP) — Former Wimbledon champion Stan Smith defeated the Italian advance to the men's final of the \$135,000 Momy Tournament of Legends at the international tennis hall of fame.

Smith, who beat Nastase for the Wimbledon title in 1972, used a strong drop-volley game Saturday in winning the over-35 match 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Smith, 42, will face Bob Lutz in the final match Sunday.

In other action in the second day of the tournament, Cliff Drysdale defeated Marty Riessen 8-4 in a men's over-45 singles match after Riessen had won the first two games.

In the final match Saturday before a crowd of 2,062 at the Newport Casino, Virginia Wade and Joanne Russell beat Kerry Reid and Evonne Goolagong 6-3, 6-1 in women's doubles.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Metz ends Sochaux's French Cup dream

PARIS (R) — Metz beat second division Sochaux in the French Cup final Saturday — but only after extra time and a penalty shoot-out. Eric Black's diving header just before halftime restored Metz's confidence after Sochaux, who will play in the first division next season, had taken the lead through Stephane Paille nine minutes earlier. Sochaux's Michael Madar was first to miss from the spot after eight penalties had been converted in the shoot-out.

44 soccer fans arrested in Stuttgart

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — Forty-four English and Irish fans were arrested early Sunday after violent hooligans in Stuttgart City Centre during the European Soccer Championship finals, police said. In the first major outbreak of hooliganism of the tournament, police moved in after the supporters started attacking each other, a Stuttgart police spokeswoman said. Another fan, a Luxembourg citizen, was also taken away. Police said local prosecutors were questioning the fans. Some had already been set free, while others were likely to be able to leave custody later in the day, probably after the England-Ireland international in the afternoon, she said. Until now the authorities had reported sporadic outbreaks of violence and a massive police presence in the eight cities hosting the 16-day tournament had apparently succeeded in keeping hooliganism down to a minimum.

Princess Ann rides Insular to victory

YORK, England (AP) — Britain's Princess Ann rode a horse bred by her mother to victory in a race named for her grandmother Saturday. The princess scored her third victory as a flat-race jockey, riding longshot Insular to a 12-length victory in the Queen Mother's Cup at York. The princess, winning for the first time this season, took the 14-10-1 shot to the front a eighth of a mile from the finish and drew away for an easy victory over odds-on favourite McCubbin. "The running of the race really suited Insular today and with the crowd making such a noise as he came up to the winning post I was not really certain just how far clear we were," the princess said. Insular was bred by the princess' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, and has been given to Ian Balding's Kinsclere stable for apprentice jockeys to ride. "He is an ideal horse for this type of race and was ridden brilliantly," Balding said.

Wright passes fitness test to face Ireland

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — Central defender Mark Wright passed a late fitness test and was named by manager Bobby Robson in his team to face Ireland in Sunday's opening European Soccer Championship group two match at the Neckarstadion. Wright had been doubtful with a hamstring injury suffered during England's midweek practice match against VHF Heilbronn. Robson's team included Wright alongside Tony Adams in central defence, which meant there was no place for full-back Viv Anderson who had been put on stand-by in case Wright failed his test.

Sanchez to face Mancini in tennis final

BOLOGNA (R) — Top seed Kent Carlsson of Sweden withdrew with injury from his semifinal against Alberto Mancini in the Bologna tennis tournament Saturday, leaving the young Argentine to face Spain's Emilio Sanchez in the final. Defending champion Carlsson, ranked ninth in the world, said he was suffering from an inflamed achilles tendon but vowed to play next year. Sanchez, seeded second, had an easy passage to the final, overcoming Argentine Martin Jaito 6-3, 6-1 in just over an hour on Bologna's slow red clay. Jaito made errors from the start and only occasionally showed the skill that has earned him 20th place in the world rankings. Sanchez played with confidence and precision, particularly in the second set where he won five games in a row before Jaito belatedly held serve.

Chistyakova sets long jump record

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet athlete Galina Chistyakova shattered the women's world long jump record Saturday with a 7.52-meter leap which she said boosted her hopes for a gold medal at the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul. Chistyakova, 24, made the record jump in her sixth attempt during a Leningrad athletics tournament. The previous record of 7.45 metres was held jointly by Heike Drechsler of East Germany and Jackie Joyner of the United States. When the dust had cleared Chistyakova said she felt her fourth jump of 7.45 metres had been the best, since she had begun the leap some 10 cm ahead of the starting line.

Japan grabs volleyball title

FUJISAWA, Japan (AP) — Japan downed Cuba 8-15, 15-12, 15-6, 15-11 for its third straight victory Sunday to capture the NHK Cup men's volleyball title. Cuba finished second with 2-1. In the day's second match at Aikahadai Sports Centre, west of Tokyo, Jan Posthumus from The Netherlands scored three spike and seven block points to power his team to a 13-15, 15-10, 17-15, 15-8 victory over South Korea.

Aouita clocks unofficial world best time

CASABLANCA (R) — Morocco's champion runner Said Aouita ran two miles in eight minutes, 13.09 seconds to set a new unofficial world record at an international athletics meeting in Casablanca Saturday night.

The organisers said there was some dispute about the timing because someone walked through the photoelectric beam and stopped the clock at eight minutes when Aouita was about 110 metres from the finish.

He was timed manually at 8 minutes 13.09 seconds, to beat his own world record of 8 minutes 13.45 seconds which he set in Turin, Italy, on May 5 last year.

Aouita, who also holds the 1,500 metre, 2,000 metre and 5,000 metre world records, was literally speechless with anger after the race, waving journalists away.

Britain's Steve Cram clocked 3 minutes 37.43 seconds in the 1,500 metre event, substantially below his own personal best of 3:29.47 which he set in Helsinki. Second was Omar Khalifa of Sudan in 3:39.78.

Cram, who goes on to race in Paris and Oslo, has never raced against Aouita, said "I hope he will come to my home town of Jarrow when we hold our athletics meet."

Calvin Smith of the United States, who won the 110-metre sprint in 10.21 seconds. It was way off the record he set in July 1983 in Colorado Springs when he clocked 9.93 seconds.

Moses opens season with good show

TUCSON, Arizona (R) — Olympic and world champion Ed Moses recorded his best-ever season's opening performance Saturday when he won a 400 metres hurdles event in 48.38 seconds. "A time of 48.5 is acceptable for an opening meeting and I did better than that," Moses said after the race at the University of Arizona.

George Porter finished 20 metres back in second place in 49.71 seconds and another American, Tranel Hawkins, was third in 49.79 seconds.

Andre Phillips, who is expected to be one of Moses' toughest opponents at the Olympic trials next month, also competed in the Arizona meeting, but ran in different events.

Phillips won the 200 metres in 20.51 seconds, the 400 metres in 45.10 seconds and the 110 metres hurdles in 13.65 seconds.

Another candidate for the U.S. team, sprinter Ron Brown who was a member of the 1984 American Olympic team, won the 100 metres in 10.29 seconds.

The 32-year-old Moses, who has won two Olympic and two world gold medals as well as holding the world record, said he would go home to California and train hard for two days before deciding when he would compete again. He is expected to run once or twice more before the U.S. Olympic trials.

Ireland scores stunning victory over England

STUTTGART, West Germany (Agencies) — Ireland marked their first appearance in the finals of a major soccer tournament with a hard-earned but famous victory when they beat England 1-0 in Sunday's opening European Championship Group Two match at the Neckarstadion.

Midfielder Ray Houghton, with a header after only six minutes, scored the decisive goal and set up Ireland's first triumph over England since September 1949. The goal was Houghton's first for his country.

On a warm and sunny afternoon, England were never able to fight or scheme their way back despite abundant possession. Striker Gary Lineker, scorer of 26 goals in his previous 32 internationals, wasted two glorious chances in the second half.

These were costly for England as they slithered to their first defeat in nine games, while the jubilant Irish celebrated an extension of their recent unbeaten run to 11 matches.

The English fans in the 53,000 crowd were kept under close con-

trol throughout the afternoon by more than 700 West German police.

Ireland came to the tournament as the lowest ranked of the eight participating teams, while England was considered one of the top favourites to clinch its first European title.

Ireland is managed by Jack Charlton, who won the World Cup with England in 1966. England never recovered from the early shock in the first half and found no answer to Ireland's early checking.

But England came back strongly after the interval and missed a string of excellent opportunities. Gary Lineker, whose six goals made him the top striker of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, alone wasted four chances. Two of

them were saved by Ireland goalkeeper Paddy Bonner and twice Lineker was off the target.

Ireland, playing in a major tournament for the first time, stunned the favoured English team with a determined performance from the opening whistle.

Ireland threatened England's goal in the fourth minute and two minutes later Houghton scored the only goal, after two clearing errors by the England defence.

Tony Galvin hooked a high cross into the England area. Kenny Sansom tried to head away but laid the ball on for John Aldridge who headed back inside to his Liverpool teammate Houghton.

Houghton headed into the far corner over England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who was playing his 99th international.

Ireland appeared to be running out of steam in the closing minutes and England came close to clinching an equaliser in injury time but Bonner punched away an effort by late substitute Mark Hateley. It was Bonner's eighth consecutive shutout in international matches.

Pistons face Lakers in NBA Championship series

PONTIAC, Michigan (AP) — The National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship series, tied at one victory each, shifts Sunday from the fabulous forum in Los Angeles to the Pontiac Silverdome, an indoor football stadium where the sun and wind are factors.

"It isn't like other arenas," Detroit Pistons coach Chuck Daly said.

The road trip isn't like any other for Michigan-born Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers. His family and friends will be in the huge crowd watching game 3.

He said Saturday he won't meet with them until after the game. He might even be able to enjoy a home-cooked meal after struggling with the flu.

"I'm feeling a lot better now. I ate food finally for the first time last night," he said.

Although "it's exciting" to play in front of people dear to him, he is postponing his reunion with his roots.

"It doesn't matter if they're upset or not," said Johnson. "I have a job to do."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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COUNTDOWN FOR SUCCESS

North-South vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 3
♥ A J 10 5
♦ A J 10 5
♣ 8 6 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 5 4 2
♥ 7
♦ Q 9 6 4 2
♣ 5 4

EAST
♠ J 10 7
♥ 10 8 5 4
♦ 3
♣ A K J 10 9

SOUTH
♠ A 8
♥ K J 9 6 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ Q 7 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ 2♠ 2♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
The books will tell you that the chance for a finesse succeeding is 50 percent. That is true when you know little or nothing about the hand. The odds, in some circumstances, can be improved to an absolute certainty.

The auction was routine. East took advantage of the vulnerability to make a light overcall and South introduced his suit. North's raise was automatic, and South had more than enough to venture to game. The defenders were quick to col-

lect their book. With the club lead marked, East took his high clubs and gave his partner a ruff. West exited with a spade to the ace, and the contract now hinged on declarer being able to avoid losing a diamond.

To complicate matters, declarer could take the finesse either way. While the tendency is to play the overcall for the queen, declarer decided to learn all he could about the hand before committing himself in diamonds. He started by drawing the trumps, and learned that East had started with five clubs and four hearts. On the fourth trump declarer made a key play—he discarded a diamond from dummy, not a spade.

To complete his count, declarer cashed the king of spades and ruffed the spade he had preserved so carefully. When East followed to these two tricks, he could not have more than one diamond. So declarer cashed the king and confidently continued with a diamond finesse to score his contract.

Note that, had declarer not kept the spade to ruff, his count of the hand would have been incomplete. He would have discovered that East held at least two spades, but two of East's cards would have remained unknown. Despite the odds against, declarer might then have been swayed by the overall to play East for the queen of diamonds, with disastrous results.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I was out jogging in my green sweat suit and I was crabby. Three people mistook me for Godzilla."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WROCE
UNDAT
SOOJUY
BOPHIS



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAFT HONEY TRICKY WALRUS
Answer: They invited that screwball painter because he was always this THE LIFE OF THE "ARTY"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Eur. range
2 Diamond
10 — Jima
12 Liquid
15 City on the Nile
16 Arrest
17 Shipshape
19 Comp. pt.
20 Football team
21 Frayed
22 Mr. Jillion
24 Table mats
28 Tool
30 Annoy
31 Relative
32 Less irrational
33 Audiotape abbr.
36 Naked
40 Cheating word
41 More accurate
42 Anatomical network
43 Arab digwiga
45 Stages
47 Picture takers
49 — Magnon
50 Decorate
51 Divided in a way
56 Big —
57 Puzzled
60 de France
61 Sign of grief
62 Bizarre
63 Fr. marshal
64 Baker's need
65 Beach sight
12 Toss the mark
14 — eclipse
18 Lairs
22 Pacino and
23 Capp
24 Contributor
25 A Cassini
26 Twosome
27 Moon goddess
28 Rich
29 Biblical verb ending
30 Wins in chess
32 Disparaging remarks
34 Rose or
35 God of war
37 Infinite time
38 Territory
39 — la la
44 Mail de —
45 Malayan boat
46 A famous Lena
47 Collage
48 An Astaire
49 Lost part
51 Alphabet list
52 Fruit drinks
53 Movie manse
54 Emerald Isle
55 Colored
58 Society page word
59 Driving org.

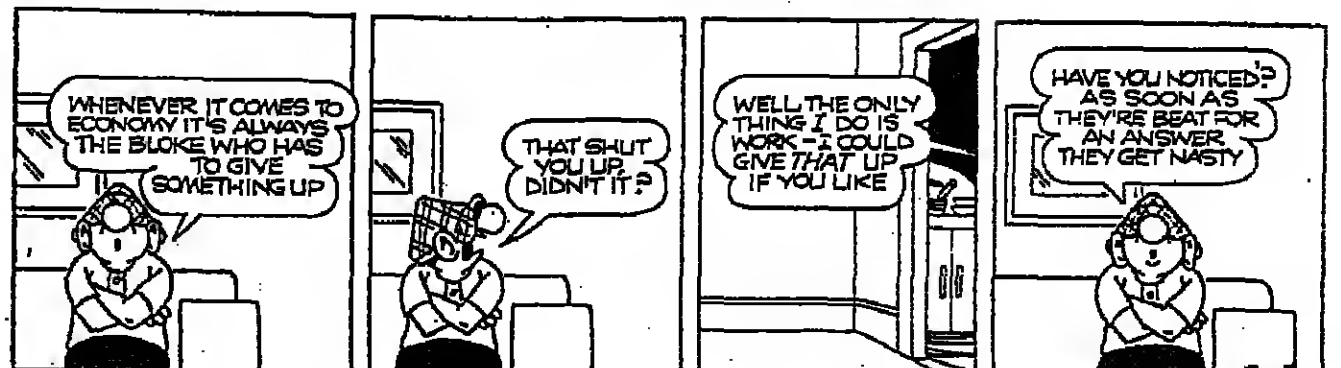
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Sweeping curbs alarm journalists in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Local and foreign journalists in South Africa, displaying rare unanimity, have expressed alarm over Pretoria's extension and toughening of media curbs under a nationwide state of emergency.

A pro-government newspaper went as far as saying the move would deprive the public of vital facts.

The curbs were announced Friday as the government extended for a third year its emergency powers that allow for detention without trial of opponents.

"We view with despair the state's brutal assault on the very little and rapidly diminishing freedom of the press and on the right of the people to know what is happening around them," said Jon Qwelane, a columnist for the Sunday Star and representative of the Geneva-based International Federation of Journalists.

The Foreign Correspondents Association, grouping nearly 100 journalists of foreign news organisations, issued a statement Saturday urging the swift repeal of all press restrictions.

"We observe with irony that South Africa is progressively shutting down the free flow of information at a time when the Soviet Union, frequently depicted here as an enemy of press freedom, is noticeably moving towards a more open society, despite having its own problems," it said.

President P.W. Botha first im-

posed media controls when he declared the emergency June 12, 1986 to stem a rising tide of black revolt against apartheid race segregation laws.

The government argued then that media coverage of the revolt was fuelling the climate of insurrection in black townships. As

closed for a financially-crippling three months.

Political violence has now diminished.

The exception is Natal province by the Indian Ocean, where rival black factions are fighting for political control.

The toughened media curbs introduced last week require local news agencies operating in townships and rural areas to register with the government, threatening them with the same fate as the suspended alternative papers.

No member of an organisation restricted under the emergency can be quoted advocating anything which could be seen as a threat to public safety — such as foreign sanctions.

As most black opposition leaders are linked to 17 organisations restricted in February, this is far-reaching.

Reporters must avoid completely a key issue — black calls to boycott race-based local government elections in October.

The authorities say South Africa is still sitting on a powder keg of revolutionary violence and emergency controls are needed to provide a calm climate for gradual reform.

Earlier this year, several small but influential "alternative" publications, distinct from the press owned by big business, were

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Peking accuses VOA of incitation

PEKING (AP) — China's official news agency said Saturday that Peking University students are accusing the U.S.-supported Voice of America (VOA) Radio network of demagoguery in its reports on recent student unrest.

In Washington, the network denied the charge.

The harshly worded report by the Xinhua News Agency said VOA, which has a large audience in China, had become a target of student criticism.

Xinhua quoted one unidentified physics student as saying VOA had blown the situation on the Peking University campus out of proportion.

He said the radio reported falsely that a student was arrested in a brief sit-in at Tiananmen Square last Wednesday. It said VOA gave a false impression by saying police had charged at students to disperse them.

Police Wednesday closed off the square to thwart a planned pro-democracy rally by students. About a dozen students tried to

stage a sit-in on a sidewalk off the square, but police stopped them. Police said one man was detained, but he was not a student.

Richard Carlson, director of the U.S. Broadcasting Network, said in a statement Saturday that "the VOA rejects the charge of demagoguery or anything resembling that."

Carlson said the network "carefully sourced and verified the events," before reporting them.

The June 2 murder of a graduate student at the university ignited campus protests first of lax security and later of poor living conditions for intellectuals and the slow pace of democratic reform in China.

Xinhua quoted a student as saying VOA is overly interested in bad news about China. "Therefore, I suspect it has the desire to see China plunged into chaos," the student said.

A law student reportedly asked, "Is the radio not trying to make the situation worse?"

Washington (AP) — Democrat Michael Dukakis is off to a strong start in California and other longtime Republican strongholds in his race against vice president George Bush, although a closely contested presidential election seems likely, according to an AP survey.

The 50-state survey indicated widespread optimism among Democrats that Dukakis, the son of Greek immigrants, can end eight years of Republican rule in the White House.

Republican officials in many states said the contest shapes up as a tight one, but several said

Bush could win easily if he succeeds in his attempt to depict Dukakis as an heir to the Democratic party's liberal past.

Dukakis leads in the polls in California and New Jersey, which last voted Democratic in 1964, and is running even with Bush in the polls in Utah, which gave President Ronald Reagan his largest majority in 1980 and 1984.

One survey shows the Massachusetts Governor running even in reliably Republican Nebraska, and within striking distance in Texas and Florida, key southern states.

The event Saturday was the city's largest political demonstration since 1982, police said.

It capped a week of activities in support of the third United Nations special session on disarmament. The coalition organising the event is seeking to increase interest in abolishing nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

"This is a New York event to say, 'we still believe,'" said Peter Yarrow of the American folk singing group Peter, Paul and Mary.

Along the roads winding through Central Park were booths set up by organisations that distributed literature, sold buttons, T-shirts and records.

The SSD-III National Coalition endorses the abolition of

Los Angeles (AP) — A task force of 1,000 police officers swept through the city during the night in a dragnet for street gang members, arresting more than 530 people and seizing drugs and weapons, authorities said Saturday. The sweep, a major skirmish in what Police Chief Daryl Gates calls a war on "the rotten little cowards," followed the release of a department report showing gang slayings had risen to 96 so far this year from 80 in the same period in 1987. "We're going to do it again and again," Gates vowed at a briefing. "There were definitely a lot of rock (crack) cocaine arrests, some arrests for possession of narcotics for sale, and there were numerous weapons confiscated, including an AK-47 assault rifle," said Lieutenant Jim Tatreau. The sweep, which began Friday afternoon and ended early Saturday, was the largest since April.

MANILA (R) — A landmine believed planted by communist rebels killed seven soldiers Sunday and two other troops were wounded down at a guerrilla checkpoint in the northern Philippines, the military said. A sketchy report said a military truck carrying the seven troops hit the landmine in Sagada Town, mountain province, 256 kilometres north of Manila. In a neighbouring town, guerrillas shot to death two soldiers in a passenger bus held up at a rebel checkpoint, the military said. Meanwhile, a Philippine air force jet Sunday crashed into a house in north-western Pangasinan Province, killing the pilot, a military report said. A woman on the ground was injured.

LAOS (AP) — Communist Laos is now able to provide all its own basic food needs but still must import rice production, animal husbandry and irrigation by the year 2000, a Laotian official said in a statement Sunday. Sali Vongkhamso, head of Laos' State Planning Committee, said rice production is up 86 per cent since 1976, coffee 92 per cent and cattle herds 60 per cent. The announcement follows emergency food aid to Laos after a serious drought last year left the country with a 1987 rice output of about 1.2 million tons. Sali said that to increase general living conditions, rice production has to rise to 2.25 million tons by the year 2000 and meat production must increase 2.4 times more than 1985. With an average annual per capita income of some \$150, Laos is listed as one of the world's poorest countries. But a low population relative to land size allows for a far better standard of living than the statistics would indicate.

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